

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 28, 2011

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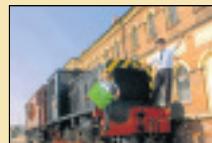
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Oswestry

Railway plans are right on track

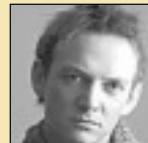
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Welshpool

The Pryce is right for town singer

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Competition

Win tickets to Oswestry Truck Show

Page 10



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Welshpool homes set for wheelie bin scheme

THIS MASSIVE sign shows the depth of feeling against plans for a substation and 400,000 volt power line across Mid Wales and into Shropshire.

The sign – on the side of the A483 at Garthmyl – spells out the message sent from a mass public meeting against the plans staged in Welshpool last week.

Now protesters from the meeting say they will name the date for a planned march on the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff after the results of next week's elections.

And the move means that some waste will now be collected on a fortnightly basis rather than weekly.

Powys County Council decided yesterday to introduce a new kerbside recycling collection system, which will mean getting rid of black bin bags.

Under the proposals,

small wheelie bins for the collection of residual waste would be introduced as well as boxes for the collection of recycling waste.

The authority, which currently collects recycling waste in bags, said it had to meet strict targets on waste sent to landfill.

Councillor Ken Harris,

who is responsible for waste,

said recycling, including

food, would still be collected on a weekly basis but the residual waste would be collected on a fortnightly basis.

He said: "The council will adopt a 'three box' kerbside recycling scheme as the standard scheme across Powys. The system should ensure that the council meets the first statutory recycling target of 52 per cent in 2012/13."

He added: "The roll-out of the scheme will take place across the current and next financial years."

Abattoir's plan agreed

PLANS TO demolish and rebuild an abattoir at Hordley, near Oswestry have been granted despite fears that it could lead to a huge expansion of the operation.

Shropshire Council agreed to the new complex at the ABP headquarters at a meeting in Oswestry on Tuesday.

Residents told the meeting that the current abattoir caused major traffic problems. But ABP director Andrew Cracknell assured the committee the company had no plans to grow its operations at Hordley.

Protest gets spelled out

by Graham Breeze

Richard Bonfield, one of the organisers of last week's protest, said the election result was key to their decision making.

"We will be marching on the Senedd but need to be sure we have our timing right and that all depends on the outcome of next week's Assembly Government elections," he said.

And he also revealed that the protest group, fronted by Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies,

will attempt to co-ordinate a demonstration with fellow protesters from North Wales, Ceredigion and Pembsire.

"We are all opposed to schemes that will ruin our environment and it is important that we demonstrate solidarity," he said.

Village and town protest groups will be asked to organise their own transport to the Welsh capital and plan to assemble outside the city before travelling in convoy to the Senedd.

• Pylon – Page 16



Protesters used a large lorry unit to get their message across on the A483 between Welshpool and Newtown

Oswestry superstore plan firm in appeal

AN OSWESTRY business has launched an appeal after its plans to build a supermarket in Victoria Road were turned down.

Car firm JT Hughes was one of several unsuccessful applicants whose plans for supermarkets in Oswestry were rejected by Shropshire planners last year.

The appeal will now take place at the Shirehall in Shrewsbury on July 12 and 13 in a public hearing.

JT Hughes' planning consultant Les Stephan said: "It will be very informal and we are trying to keep the issues very narrow in terms of matters that will be discussed."

"We are in the process at the moment of agreeing what are called statements of common ground with the planning authority and agreeing which issues are in dispute."

Mr Stephan said issues like access – including a new traffic roundabout on the junction of Victoria Road and Salop Road – and the design and size of the proposed building in Victoria Road, were not in dispute.

Mr Stephan said that the argument his clients would be using at the hearing was that the "tick list" the planners used was flawed.

Mr Stephan said other advantages of JT Hughes' application, which was made in conjunction with neighbouring company Gutters, included free parking.

The planning inspector's decision is expected within seven weeks of the hearing.

DEFIANT STAND IN SCHOOL ROW

Report by Associate Editor Graham Breeze



David Taylor

CLOSURE threatened Maesbury School today issued a defiant response after education bosses confirmed they want to close the village site for good.

The primary school has been earmarked for closure in a Shropshire Council report outlining which schools are proposed to be shut in the summer of next year. A final decision is now only one week away.

Headteacher Rosemary Finney said she was looking into the idea of academy status in the latest bid to try to keep its doors open.

Important

She said: "We believe it's very important to keep Maesbury Primary School open and we believe it can offer a long and economic future. We are looking very seriously at academy status and now it seems the most likely option for Maesbury."

Earlier this month, staff and governors pleaded with the council cabinet and education officers to reconsider plans to axe the village school. Chairman of governors Tony Milner said:

"The recommendation is that Cabinet defer a decision on merger at the moment but it's not definite."

She added that if the unitary authority's Cabinet accepted that decision it failed but that we have listened, engaged and looked at different ways of doing things."

David Taylor, director of children and young peoples services at Shropshire Council, said: "We are left with a bad settlement compared to other areas and times are also getting very tough."

Council officials say it has lost £10 million in funding over the last five years because of falling numbers.

Mr Taylor added: "We have come back with the proposals, some are the same and some are revised. We have put a lot of time and work into listening carefully and we have adapted proposals as a result."

"This is not a sign we have failed but that we have listened, engaged and looked at different ways of doing things."

• Blow – Page 16

Right royal fun for pupils



Maesbury Primary School was celebrating St George's Day and the Royal Wedding today. Pictured are Isabel Davies, seven, and Laura Lloyd, 10. For more about the Royal Wedding, see our special on pages 4 and 5

Vandals set cars on fire

VANDALS SET FIRE to seven cars and damaged three others in Oswestry.

Police have appealed for help in tracing youths in connection with the attacks early on Wednesday.

They say the arson attacks may also be linked to a suspected break-in at the town's Gateacre Pavilion.

The alarm was raised at 3.20am with a car fire in Middleton Road. Other cars were attacked at Oak Street car park, Swan Lane, Ash Road, Cresswell Court and Prince Street.

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CONTACT US

News: Graham Breeze
Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Sports: Alex James
Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Oswestry photographic
Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Welshpool photographic
Tel: 01938 553319 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertising:
Alison Jukes
Tel: 01691 668090 E-mail: ajukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Pauline Edwards
Tel: 01691 668092 E-mail: pedwards@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans
Tel: 01691 668095 E-mail: marcusevans@shropshirestar.co.uk

Welshpool advertising:
Heidi Frost
Tel: 01938 553349 E-mail: hfrost@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Manure part of plan for electricity plant

Family fun day is hailed a success

SHOPPERS IN Oswestry were given a Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious treat when Mary Poppins arrived in the town.

The legendary nanny visited the Bailey Head to entertain shoppers with singing and story-telling at the market's second annual Good Friday family fun day.

Attractions included a magical wizard who performed tricks and an Easter egg hunt, which had been set up at the indoor market.

David Clough, Oswestry's retail markets and events manager, said hundreds had turned out to celebrate the event, which took place between 11am and 2pm.

He said: "It went down very well with everyone and the excellent weather was certainly on our side and helped attract more people."

"We held the first ever fun day on the Bailey Head last year and because it was very successful, Oswestry Town Council has decided to make it an annual event."

He said youngsters had particularly enjoyed the singing and dancing Mary Poppins and having their faces painted.

"The event certainly helps attract more people into that particular area of the town and helps raise awareness of the market," he added.

"Traders like it because they see a lot of new faces and everyone had a great time."

Delight over hole-in-one



John Evans at Oswestry Golf Club, who got a hole-in-one at a charity match

OSWESTRY GOLF Club captain John Evans scored a hole in one at the club's charity mixed open last Thursday.

With more than 140 players taking part in glorious weather he aced the 169 yard 17th hole using a four iron.

Over £1,500 was raised for the two

captain's charities, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Guide Dogs For The Blind Association.

Mr Evans, 45, has been a member of the club since he was six and plays off a handicap of five. "It was a day I will never forget," he said.

Tribute set to take root

A TREE HAS been planted in Oswestry in memory of a former mayor and town councillor.

The tree was planted by family, friends and colleagues of the late Councillor Bill Keable in the Cae Glas Park.

Mr Keable joined Oswestry Town Council in 1987 following his retirement at North Shropshire District Council. He was mayor of Oswestry in 1997/98 and again in 2006/07.

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NEWS

Council's joy over town lap for race

NEWS THAT the Tour of Britain cycle race is heading to Welshpool has been welcomed by the town council—but suggestions that the event has been stolen from Newtown have been denied.

Newtown Mayor Joy Jones has expressed her disappointment that the race will not have a stage in the town as it did in 2010.

Town clerk Robert Robinson said: "Welshpool is obviously honoured to have the event but we did not seek to take it from Newtown. Powys County Council asked if we would host it."

The event starts at Powis Castle on August 21 and will do one lap of the town's one-way system before travelling 180km to Caerphilly Castle.

"The town council will need now to plan an event around it and work has just started on this," added Mr Robinson.

"For Welshpool this is a very busy year with the Bulldog Rally, Plains Rally, Air Show with the Red Arrows, a music festival in September, carnival in May and now the Tour of Britain as well."

A spokesman for the race said: "The Tour of Britain is pleased to be returning to Wales for the second successive year, this year introducing The Prostate Cancer Charity Tour Ride Wales, taking place over a tough stage that will take cyclists from castle to castle."

Road safety in spotlight

POWYS COUNTY Council has completed a road safety audit in Welshpool and looks likely to report "no significant problems".

A council spokesperson said: "The road safety audit was carried on April 20 and its findings and recommendations will be reported to the county council and traffic consultants working on behalf of Tesco."

"Early indications are there were no significant problems."

Blow as school will still face closure in shake-up

by Graham Breeze

ONE OSWESTRY school is being recommended for closure while another might be saved, it was announced this week.

The sledgehammer blow was delivered to Maesbury Primary School yesterday while plans to create an "all-through" school in St Martins, by moving Ifton Heath Primary School to the Rhyn Park Secondary School site, are recommended to be deferred to a later date. Six Shropshire schools, including Shrewsbury's Wakeman School, face the axe if recommendations are approved by Shropshire Council next week.

Shirehall chiefs said they had "listened carefully" to all views expressed in a six-week public consultation period, involving protests, demonstrations, marches and petitions.

But a "triple whammy" of falling class numbers, reducing education grants and the economic downturn mean cuts are necessary, Shropshire Council has confirmed.

The Wakeman School in Shrewsbury still faces closure at the end of the academic year in July 2013, with pupils transferring to Meole Brace School.

Halted

Four primary schools are also recommended for closure with one amalgamation, resulting in the closure of another primary school.

The decision to close Onny (Onibury) and Lydbury North Primary Schools has been deferred to investigate the schools becoming a federation.

Plans for the proposed "all through" school at Rhyn Park have also been halted to allow more time to "work through detail".

A report detailing the plans will be presented to the Shropshire Council cabinet next Wednesday.

David Taylor, director of children and young peoples services at Shropshire Council, said: "We are left with a bad settlement compared with other areas and times are also getting very tough for education."

Council officials say it has lost £10 million in funding over the last five years because of falling numbers.

In January last year, there were 36,888 pupils in Shropshire schools, 2,560 less than in 2005.

Numbers are forecast to drop to 34,860 by 2014.

Mr Taylor added: "We have come back with the proposals, some are the same and some are revised."

"We have put a lot of time and work into listening carefully and we have adapted proposals as a result."

He added: "This is not a sign we have failed but that we have listened, engaged and looked at different ways of doing things."

Ready for cycle challenge



Optometrist Jonathan Partridge is planning a fundraising bike ride

WELSHPOOL OPTOMETRIST Jonathan Partridge is planning an epic cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End.

He will set off on June 4 and plans to raise

money for Cancer Research and St Andrew's Children's Home in Chosica, Peru. He has set himself a seven-day target meaning he will need to average 130 miles a day.

"The weather could be the major challenge," he said. "Whilst I am used to cycling in the rain, my greatest fear is having to cycle into a headwind for seven days, this is the unseen enemy to cyclists and can really drain any energy that you have left in your legs."

"I have chosen Cancer Research as sadly most people have had friends or loved ones taken from them by this dreadful disease and much more research is needed into ways of beating it."

"Some years ago I had the privilege to visit St Andrew's Children's Home and see the wonderful job they do in rescuing abandoned children, often left on rubbish tips."

"This year the home is building a school within the grounds to enable the children of the whole area to receive a better education and hence improve their prospects for the future."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Jonathan can call him on (01938) 553180.

Focus on the past in display at gallery

AN INSIGHT into the history of Oswestry's buildings and its people is currently on display in the town.

Residents are being urged to add their own stories to the memorabilia over the coming fortnight.

High Street Histories was inspired by the BBC's own Hand on History project, with bosses at the Qube art gallery deciding to produce its own look at how the town has grown and changed over the years.

The Qube has been holding open mornings over the past few months encouraging people to call in and tell their stories of the town and loan their photographs for the exhibition.

Lindy Parkinson, the arts co-ordinator at Qube, said: "I was not from Oswestry myself and I did not know anything of Oswestry's history."

"Thanks to this exhibition I now understand that it is really a fascinating place."

"The stories we have displayed at Qube bring the town to life."

Lindy said that one wall of the gallery had been given over as a memories wall.

"We are asking people to bring in pictures of themselves."

She said the exhibition was growing day by day.

Vandals in cars attack

OSWESTRY POLICE have appealed for witnesses after two men were seen vandalising cars as they walked along a residential street.

The offenders were seen to kick at the wing mirrors of cars in Unicorn Road, including a Vauxhall Astra, a Rover 216 and a Vauxhall Corsa, between 11pm and midnight last Friday.

Both offenders were white and in their early 20s. One had a white top and grey trousers or jeans and the other a red top and blue jeans. They walked off towards Whittington Road.

Officers conducted a search but the offenders were not found.

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ROYAL WEDDING SPECIAL

Memories of Charles and Di's big day



Party-goers smile for a photograph



Tables were stretched down Orchard Street

ON THE EVE of one of the biggest events in a generation, we turn the clock back to how one Oswestry street celebrated Charles and Di's wedding in July 1981.

The Chronicle's Advertisement Manager David Lee-Birch recalls the street party as a seven-year-old in Orchard Street, Oswestry.

The party was organised by his late mother Grace Birch and Bernice Willis, who now lives in Australia.

Community

"I remember it as a real community event, union jacks and bunting splashed everywhere, all the children given Charles and Di commemorative mugs," he said.

"The tables which stretched down the street were old doors and there were chairs and stools from every house."

"Everyone contributed something."

"Relatives and friends of the residents also attended."

"I'm sure permission wasn't granted to close the street, as would be required now, and health and safety would have had a field day."



Residents get into the party spirit in 1981



The party was remembered as 'a real community event'

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ROYAL WEDDING SPECIAL

Wedding fever strikes as celebrations are lined up

by Graham Breeze

THE OSWESTRY and border area has been going Royal Wedding crazy this week in the build-up to Friday's big event.

Schools and playgroups across the area have been dressing up and getting into the party spirit ahead of the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Children at Pant Pandas Childcare Centre took part in a mock wedding while pupils at Whittington Primary School were presented with memorial medals. At Maesbury Primary School youngsters also received medals and enjoyed an afternoon picnic.



Leuan Young and Tommy Swannick, both five, of Maesbury Primary School



Catherine Sanderson and Callum Goss, from Pant Pandas Childcare Centre



Sarah Hopwood, of Inglenook Tea Rooms in Welshpool

First for news

FOR THE first news and pictures of the Royal Wedding don't miss Friday's Shropshire Star.

The paper will have a 20-page wedding supplement plus unrivalled news and picture coverage of the ceremony itself, with Royal Correspondent Shirley Tart leading a team of reporters in London.

On Saturday the Star will include a 24-page wedding supplement as well as full analysis and reaction on how the big day went.

A separate full-colour souvenir glossy magazine, produced by the Star, will also be on sale from Saturday morning.

Procession

The town council has organised a procession led by Newtown Minstrels Marching Band to the castle and presented infant and primary school children with commemorative mugs. The council will run a bus shuttle service throughout the day starting from the Co-operative car park in Berriew Street.

The Powysland Museum in Welshpool's Canal Yard demonstrated patriotic crafts and there were activities on Tuesday.

At The Inglenook Tea Rooms in Union Street, Welshpool, the proprietors celebrated the big day with displays of royal memorabilia.

Montgomery Town Council will hold a street party, closing off The Square for the event.



Isabel Davies, seven, and Laura Lloyd, 10, of Maesbury Primary School

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NEWS

Carey to perform service in county

A FORMER Archbishop of Canterbury will be conducting a confirmation service in Shropshire this summer.

Ex-Archbishop George Carey has been invited to the parish of Whittington by Canon Philip Crowe, a retired clergyman who now lives at Babbinswood, near Oswestry.

Canon Crowe, who was principal of the theological college at Old Sarum, Salisbury, during his long career, and later became Vicar of Penley and Erbistock on the north west Shropshire border, will host the June visit.

The confirmation candidates from Whittington and West Felton have been told the news.

But church warden of St John the Baptist Church at Whittington, Don Howard, says in the latest edition of the parish magazine that other people interested in becoming confirmed could still join in their confirmation classes in time for the June 12 service at 10.30am.

Born in 1935 in London, George Carey served as Archbishop of Canterbury from April 1991 and retired from that position in October 2002. He was created a life peer as Baron Carey of Clifton a month later.

Bench unveiled

A NEW BENCH has been unveiled in Selattyn near Oswestry in memory of villager Ripple James. The bench, in St Mary's Churchyard, was donated by her son Tim.

Councillors facing abuse over new one-way system

by Graham Breeze

TOWN COUNCILLORS are being abused on the streets of Welshpool over the introduction of the town's new one-way system.

And the council could install CCTV cameras in its offices to protect staff from abusive visitors, angry about the long traffic delays and loss of trade to the town's businesses.

Welshpool Town Council wants the abuse to stop and was meeting last night to discuss the situation and consider the CCTV system.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson has faced abuse on the streets as well as in his office and councillors are also coming under attack.

He said: "We are a very open council here in Welshpool and always try our best to keep things that way."

"But recently councillors have become increasingly concerned about the abuse received from the public against town council staff, particularly on items over which the town council has little or no control."

Offensive

"One of the issues with people has been the introduction of the town's new one-way system but what a lot of people don't realise is that it was never a town council scheme. Powys County Council introduced it and we just helped it come in. It's a small minority of people that are abusive and I wouldn't say it's a major problem but it's something which shouldn't be allowed to happen."

Mr Robinson said the matter of the abuse would be discussed at last night's town council meeting.

"We will be discussing whether or not to install a CCTV system in the entrance to the town council's offices and put up a sign in the office entrance saying that abuse, whether physical or verbal, is not acceptable," he said.

"We will also be deciding whether or not we should introduce a policy whereby any person who is offensive is not dealt with and they will be asked to leave and come back another time."

Councillor Ann Holloway said people were shouting at her from passing cars as she walked around the town.

"I don't know why I am being shouted at in this way. This was not a Welshpool Town Council scheme," she said.

Meanwhile problems which have arisen since the system was introduced are to be rectified in coming weeks. The town council said there was a "snagging list" which is being addressed. The list includes parking signs, a crossing point by Andrew Fish Bar in High Street, some cracked pavements and the filtering of cars into two lanes by the Spar in Church Street.

Getting ready for Knockout challenge



Promoting the It's A Knockout Challenge at The Venue are, in no order, John McKenna, Phil Baker, team mascot Spot the Dog, Danny Holmes, Chris Sharpe, Richard Partridge, Scott Ruscoe, Sean Jones, Ryan Marriot and gym manager Naomi Stocker

STAFF AT AN Oswestry venue are asking people to step back in time to take part in a big summer challenge.

Inspired by the 1970s and 80s TV show, It's A Knockout, staff at The Venue are looking for teams of 10 to take part in the challenge at Park Hall on July 3.

A company has been recruited to

bring inflatable games including a giant jigsaw, a penguin game and a doughnut ring challenge to the grounds.

Sarah Clayton, a spokeswoman for The Venue, said they were inspired by the 1980s television programme.

"Everyone is excited about this," she said. "It is a main highlight for the

summer." The fun starts at 12.30pm on July 3. Teams can take part in the fun or help raise cash for charity. The event costs £15 per person and the minimum age is 15 years old. For more information call (01691) 684840.

The Venue is also holding a charity dinner with the original Calendar Girl Tricia Stewart on May 14 from 7pm.

NEWS**in brief****Egg-citing gift for youngsters**

HUNDREDS OF Easter eggs donated to The Severn, Shropshire's local radio station have been handed out.

The Severn handed the eggs to the children's wards at The Orthopaedic Hospital Oswestry, the Princess Royal Hospital Telford and The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Neil Bentley, Carlie Swain and Lucy Hounsell from The Severn made their way across Shropshire last Thursday distributing the eggs, along with Tim Mitchell Photography from Oswestry, who captured the hand-out.

The Easter egg appeal ran for six weeks on air.

Neil Bentley, of The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, said: "The Severn is thrilled with the response to the Easter egg appeal. Huge thanks to all our listeners."

Village will hold annual meeting

THE VILLAGE of Whittington will hold its annual meeting next week.

Villager Charles Lillis has been invited to the meeting to speak about the problems of light pollution across Shropshire. He wants light pollution to be reduced.

The meeting will be held in Whittington senior citizens hall on May 3 at 7pm.

Electricity cut

THE VILLAGE of Guisfield was left without power for nearly two hours on Easter Sunday. More than 250 homes lost power at about 7pm, with a cable in a garden identified as the trouble spot. Power was restored at 9pm.



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11th-16th Delights of Cornwall - Rosemundy House Hotel* St Agnes** 6 Days £409

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15th-19th Belleek - Ireland's Lakes & The Giants Causeway - Carlton Hotel* Belleek** 5 Days £299

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16th-20th Tenby - Cliff Norton Hotel Tenby 5 Days £295

INCLUDES: Four Nights DBB, Two Nights Entertainment, Excursions Inc; Pembroke, Haverford West, Pendine, Laugharne & Carmarthen.

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20th-24th Eastbourne - The York House* Eastbourne** 5 Days £299

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NEWS**Boyzone star at county event**

BOYZONE STAR and screen hearthrob Keith Duffy will be appearing at this year's Shropshire Truck Show in Oswestry.

The show returns on Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, at Oswestry Showground, and features a full weekend of family fun at one of the largest events in the region.

Keith Duffy will be appearing on the Sunday to meet fans and sign autographs.

Keith is well known for being part of the chart-topping boy band, Boyzone, as well as for playing Ciaran McCarthy on and off for almost a decade in Coronation Street.

Other entertainment at the Shropshire Truck Show will include a car-crushing showdown between two monster trucks, plus the chance to ride in a real monster truck, while visitors will also get to crush cars.

The Freestyle Motocross Display team will also be performing. And a Flingsby Fire Fly stunt plane will also be at the show.

Day admission is £10 for adults, £5 for children or £25 for a family of two adults and two children. Car parking is free, and gates open at 9am each day.

Chapel date

A VILLAGE chapel will celebrate its 130th anniversary at a service on May 6. Cefn Chapel, Trewern, will celebrate with a service to be led by the Rev Ralph Wilkins at 7pm.

New boxing club aims to be knockout success

by Graham Breeze

OSWESTRY HAS a new boxing club thanks to fight enthusiasts who have opened a new gymnasium this week.

Ringside opened its doors in Bailey Street on Monday with 20 youngsters turning up for the opening sessions. The club leaders now hope the town will produce some boxing greats of the future.

Will Rowbotham, who has launched the new organisation with Jimmy Gibson, said: The youngsters were buzzing and there was a great atmosphere. Oswestry has produced a lot of very good boxers in the past.

"Hopefully we can go on to discover a lot of new talent."

"If enthusiasm is anything to go by there is a really good future ahead," he added.

Ringside is open seven nights a week from 5.30pm to 8pm and is fully equipped with punchballs, speedballs, weights and a full size boxing ring.

"We are open to anyone who is interested," he added.

Medicals

"We will be registered with the Amateur Boxing Association, as will all our members."

Members of the club will also be given medicals before they are able to take part, he added.

"The next challenge is to develop the youngsters so that they can start to compete in the ring and represent Ringside and Oswestry on the boxing circuit."

Mr Rowbotham also announced that local butcher and former boxer Eric Roberts had agreed to become the club's mentor.

The club is open to all ages and also welcomes women to the boxercise classes.

For further information about the boxing club contact Will Rowbotham on 07980 008453.



Opening of Ringside Amateur Boxing Club. Eric Roberts, Will Rowbotham, Jimmy Gibson, Toby Roberts, nine, Matt Roberts, 13, Will Roberts, 10 and Floyd Owen, nine

NEWS**in brief**

Council in talks on pay increases
POWYS COUNTY Councillors meet today to decide whether to award themselves pay increases of thousands of pounds.

The council will change to a leader and cabinet system next month and will no longer have a ruling board.

Decisions currently made by all 73 councillors will be left in the hands of just 10.

The council will discuss proposals that the new salary for the chairman of the cabinet will be £36,017 - up from £28,217 on last year. Cabinet members will receive £25,600, up from £21,700.

The recommendation has been criticised by Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies.

"In my opinion it's insensitive to increase salaries when everything else seems to be facing cuts," he said.

Looking at wildlife along the canal

CHILDREN AND families have the chance to take a walk and go netting along the Montgomery Canal on Sunday, May 8.

Oswestry Wildlife Watch are organising the event with the chance to discover the wildlife living in the water.

The group will meet at 10am at The Stables, Llanymynech Heritage Area, and the event is free with pond nets provided.

Bridge to be shut

A BRIDGE on a route used as a short cut from the A5 to the north of Shrewsbury is to shut this summer for essential repairs. Platt Mill Bridge is on the B4397.

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COMMENT

Schools centre of village life

MONTHS OF debating the future of schools in the Oswestry area have ended and as expected Shropshire Council is being asked to approve the closure of Maesbury Primary School.

The news announced on Wednesday is a massive blow to the school, its staff, pupils and governors and although they are vowing to keep up the fight you can't help but feel that the writing is more than on the school wall.

Councillors will next Wednesday rubber stamp the recommendation and the fate of generations of pupils in Maesbury will be sealed.

There was slightly better news at St Martins where Ifton Heath Primary School's future is to be put on hold as more investigations into slashing costs continue.

Surely this is not the right way to save money. Village schools are not just education houses, they are also the centres of communities. Without them the very fabric of village life is under threat.



POWYS COUNTY Council this week announced that wheelie bins are on the way and we all know what that means – fewer collections.

Under the scheme, the council will supply new bins for the collection of residual waste as well as new boxes for the collection of recycling

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze



waste. The end of black bin bags means wheelie bins will only be emptied every other week instead of the weekly basis being operated now.

The council says it has to meet strict targets on waste sent to landfill and wheelie bins are the solution. Fortnightly collections have caused serious implications in other areas of the country and I think we will be hearing a lot more from Powys on this subject.



WELSHPOOL COUNCILLORS are not happy at being abused about the new one-way system by members of the public.

Unfortunately for them, they are in the front line and I can't help feeling they took too much of a front seat in the introduction of the new road network. After all, this was a Powys scheme not a town council venture.

The public have to take their anger out on someone and they have plenty to complain about, as anyone who tried to navigate the streets last weekend will tell you.

Lesson in wheelchair skills an inspiration



Brian tries to negotiate some steps in Welshpool



PROFILE
with Ben Bentley



Brian Sirrell, right, teaches skills to, from left, Paul Towers, Michelle Quested and Mike Carson



Brian, right, keeps a close watch on David O'Reilly during a skills session

I AM SITTING in a wheelchair, trying to lift the front wheels over a length of rope, and failing miserably.

"You can do it, it just takes time and practice. Roll back a touch, then use your hands and upper body strength to power the rear wheels and lift the front ones," says Welshpool-based Brian Sirrell, a wheelchair trainer for the Back-Up Trust during one of the spinal injuries support group's sessions at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Brian makes it look easy, but having been in a wheelchair for around seven years following an illness, he's had years of practice. But I'm not complaining. Far from it. My admiration for people who spend much of their lives confined to four wheels is growing by the minute.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Back-Up Trust, whose skills sessions at Oswestry help people new to wheelchairs, whether through accidents, illness, or even warfare, rebuild their lives and give them mobility.

Here is the starting point for the rest of their days – beginning with the simple skills that will help them get around in a chair.

"Confidence is the main thing," says Brian, "and the idea that you are not set aside because you are in a wheelchair. It took me two years to get my head around that."

"One minute we are fit and running for the bus and all of a sudden you have taken away from you, and it's like having to learn to walk again, but on wheels."

There are an estimated 40,000 people in the UK living with a spinal cord injury, most commonly caused by road traffic accidents, falls, illness or sporting incidents.

The statistics are shocking. Every

eight hours, someone's life will change forever because of a spinal cord injury.

Getting on the bus, going to the local shops or the pub, playing with your children or grandchildren in the park, or just safely carrying a cup of tea from the kitchen to your living room – this is what wheelchair skills training is all about.

Teach

A typical Back-Up session covers the pushing technique, getting over obstacles, tackling kerbs and thresholds, back-wheel balancing and mounting steps. The sessions are tailored to the group and the trust runs both manual and power chair training sessions.

All wheelchair skills trainers have a spinal cord injury and can draw from their own experiences to find the best way to teach.

And during the session at Oswestry you can see how positively people react

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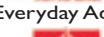
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LETTERS

Not sure if Clegg can be trusted

AS A FIREFIGHTER, I went to many incidents in London where an air ambulance attended and have seen first-hand what a fantastic, life-saving resource they are.

I have always thought they should be funded by central government, rather than having to rely on corporate business and public donation, but I breathed a sigh of relief that this isn't the case when I read the item in page 12 (Chronicle April 14) stating that Nick Clegg has pledged his support to the Welsh Air Ambulance service.

Given his recent track record and that of his boss, David Cameron, I cannot place much faith in any promise they make.

For instance, Cameron was filmed not long ago aboard HMS Ark Royal telling the crew what a fine job they performed and how rightly proud the nation is of them.

And then what happened?

The flagship of the Royal Navy was ordered to the scrapyard.

How much pride does that display?

Would it be cynical if I suggested to the Air Ambulance personnel that they should be wary when politicians start smiling at you and pledging their support?

DEREK WHEELER
Top Street
Whittington

Farce as we can't say 'no'

WE WENT TO the LlanllanHub consultation and now have the dubious pleasure of filling the "consultation form", which includes: Question One: Of the different substation siting areas National Grid has identified, which do you think is most appropriate? Please tick one only, substation siting area near to Cefn Coch, substation siting area near to Abermule - I have no preference.

So I don't think it is appropriate to put the hub at Cefn Coch or at Abermule, and I don't want to put "no preference" as I do have a preference. I want to say "no" but where do I put it? What happens if I cross out the above and put no and reasons why, my form ruined and my vote not counted?

Why can't I put "no"? It is a ridiculous farce. We must stick together and say "no".

DEB JUSTICE
Welshpool

THIS WEEK is Parkinson's Awareness Week, and I'd like to tell your readers about this debilitating, incurable disease which affects around 120,000 people in the UK. Parkinson's is a progressive disease of the nervous system that inhibits the way the brain controls movements such as walking, talking and writing. It has affected such famous figures as Muhammad Ali, Pope John Paul II, Salvador Dali and Deborah Kerr.

People with Parkinson's or other disabilities often find it extremely

costly and difficult to organise a break away from their difficult daily routine because of their complex medical and care arrangements.

As a result, a huge number of disabled people and their carers give up on the possibility of ever taking a break, due to the enormous physical or financial barriers they face. Carers also face exhaustion and the risk of becoming disabled themselves and are in equally desperate need of relief.

I work for Vitalise, a national charity providing essential respite breaks at

accessible centres around the UK. Each year we welcome thousands of disabled people and carers to enjoy desperately-needed breaks with us - breaks which often mean the difference between coping and despair. But we couldn't do it without the generosity of our supporters.

If you would like to find out how you can support Vitalise, please call us on 0845 345 1972 or visit www.vitalise.org.uk.

COLIN BROOK
Vitalise



Flashback to flooding in the Llannrino area in December 1964. The original caption to this photo was: Signal activity on the Army Duck as it makes its way towards flooded farms near Llannrino. The 'Duck' referred to would be a DUKW, an amphibious military vehicle, which was helping in the rescue operation at the time.

We must join fight

CONCERNING THE power lines in Mid Wales and Shropshire, I am glad to see the prominence being given to this issue in the Shropshire Star.

It isn't just larger communities like Abermule that are up in arms. Over 70 people from the tiny communities of Trefnannay, Sarnau and Penrhos, all close to the Vyrnwy Valley, got together last week to agree the feedback to send to National Grid about their proposals.

If a substation was built at Cefn Coch, which is an alternative site to Abermule, a power line would run down the Vyrnwy Valley. This would desecrate the lovely Meifod Valley and damage tourism and farming.

Everyone who is potentially affected in Mid Wales and Shropshire needs to stand together and oppose this proposal.

STELLA TOWNSEND
Sarnau

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 222451	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Doggy tale of castle outings

I HAVE JUST enjoyed a terrific pre-Easter weekend at the delightful tiny hamlet of Sefton, between Craven Arms and Ludlow, so this North Shropshire lad could refresh his knowledge of south Shropshire.

But, it turned up the strange tale of two castles, where medieval Ludlow Castle not only let dogs in, but provided a free pooper scoop, while Craven Arms' English Heritage-run Stokesay Castle banned them.

That was a shame, and Stokesay's financial loss, as we dog-owning castle explorers are usually highly responsible.

The visit highlighted the extreme charm of Ludlow Castle's presumably voluntary staff who could not have been more welcoming. Well done Ludlow, which looked delightful and charming in this week's sunshine, and come on Stokesay, you can do better.

DAVID PARRY-JONES
Treflach

Proof of miracles

DO YOU BELIEVE in miracles, No? Well you're wrong, because you and I are walking among miracles.

Just think of conception, two "seeds" so small they are only visible with a microscope yet they contain all that's needed to make a unique human being. There's over six billion of us yet we all have our unique DNA - each of us is special.

Springtime brings us round to Easter, it's the time when Christians celebrate the fact that Jesus, God's son shared his spiritual DNA with us. See, we are made up of body, soul and spirit and we deny our spiritual part at our peril.

Jesus shed his lifeblood on the Cross, He shared His DNA with us, and everyone who receives him comes into His family, a child of God, with His invincible spirit, now that's another miracle.

RON JONES
St Martins

Chance to take 'leap of faith' in mid-air

I AM WRITING on behalf of the Meningitis Trust to encourage all of your readers who would like to take part in a truly memorable experience this year, by joining me and taking the leap of faith.

We are organising a skydive with the famous Red Devils on June 7, and I am showing my appreciation for everything our supporters do for us, by doing the one thing I said I would never do, by jumping out of a perfectly good plane at 13,000ft.

This "madness" is to help celebrate the trust's 25th anniversary of supporting people who have been affected by meningitis. We still have a few spaces up for grabs and I would be delighted if your readers would join me.

The Meningitis Trust helps about 20,000 people each year through its unique range of professional services and community support.

It gives vital support to those who have been affected by this life-changing disease.

If you would like more information, please call our events team on 0845 120 4530 for a free information pack.

You can also e-mail events@meningitis-trust.org

SUE DAVIES
Chief Executive
Meningitis Trust

Bible was not written to control

THE ANONYMOUS letter writer ("Bible was written for purposes of control", April 8) is right to criticise people "choosing" which Scriptures they obey. Still, to read "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13) as only forbidding murder is not a case of this; God Himself interprets it this way in the very next chapter (21:12-14).

It is sad that people are so cynical about the Bible. It was not written to control people but to liberate them. False religion is dominating but by contrast Jesus said: "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

His Holy Spirit does give us self-control. What's the proof that the Bible is God's word? Too much to list here. Just read it and see for yourself: "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God . . ." (John 7:17)

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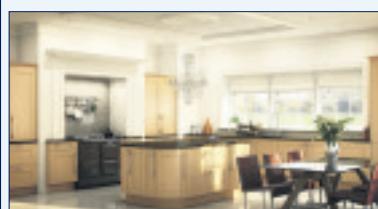
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The Shropshire Truck Show returns to Oswestry Showground on Saturday & Sunday 14th & 15th May with a full weekend of family fun and we're offering Oswestry & Border Chronicle readers the chance to win a family ticket to the event.

This year, Boyzone star Keith Duffy who also played Ciaran McCarthy in Coronation Street will be appearing on the Sunday to meet fans and sign autographs. Other entertainment includes a car-crushing showdown between monster trucks Swamp Thing and Podzilla plus the chance to ride in the Red Dragon real monster truck ride. The Freestyle Motocross display team will also be performing both days and sure to amaze the crowds with their incredible jumps and tricks.

Gates open 9 a.m. each day with tickets priced £10 (adults), £5 (children) or £25 for a family of 2 adults, 2 children. To bring a truck to the event admission is £35 for the weekend with awards and trophies up for grabs. For more information, visit www.shropshiretruckshow.co.uk or call 01775 712344 or to book call 0871 230 7146.

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning one of four family tickets to any one day of the show, name the popular soap in which Keith Duffy played Ciaran McCarthy?

Complete the form below and send to Truck Show Competition, Star Promotions, PO Box 40, Ketley, Telford TF1 5PD to reach us by Thursday 5th May, 2011.

TRUCK SHOW COMPETITION

Answer _____

Name _____

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I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature _____

The first correct entry selected at random after the closing date will receive the prize. No cash alternative for the prize is available. Employees or their immediate relatives of MNA Media are ineligible to enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.



NEWS

Town 'must listen to people's ideas'

Gearing up for challenge



Jamie-Lee Williams has signed up for a cycling challenge

ADDING A touch of glamour to this year's Lake Vyrnwy Bikeathon will be Miss Galaxy Wales Jamie-Lee Williams.

Jamie-Lee, who comes from Llanymynech, has signed up to take part in the marathon cycle ride to raise money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. The annual event, which will take place on May 15 from 10am, traditionally attracts cyclists from all over the country to take part in the 26-mile challenge.

"I am delighted to be taking part in such a worthy event and can't think of anything better than cycling around such a beautiful lake and raising money for charity at the same time," said Jamie-Lee.

Dozens of other cyclists have already signed up for the event but organisers are still urging others to get involved.

Anyone wanting to take part can enter using the charity's website beatkidscancers.org/bikeathon or by calling (01686) 420648 or (01691) 658855.

OSWESTRY MUST listen to the ideas of its residents on how to move the town forward, its mayor has said.

Councillor Elaine Channon says that the past year has been one of change, unrest and challenge in national government but says the new buzz words of localism and The Big Society are nothing new to Oswestry Town Council.

The mayor was speaking at her annual dinner, held at the Walls Restaurant.

She said: "The year has been a time for looking at regeneration and revitalisation for Oswestry, with a significant funding pot from Shropshire Council available and the recent news that the town has been selected as a Government pilot for localism in terms of neighbourhood planning.

Record

"Localism and Big Society have been the buzz words, but I would challenge as to whether they are actually new concepts to Oswestry. In terms of localism, then this town council has a considerable record of working with neighbourhood groups and private sector partners to deliver quality services."

"The obvious example is our annual bonfire and fireworks evening that has now been running for some 22 years and has raised over £65,000 for local good causes."

She said the council must not be complacent and said that Oswestry was a fast-changing town.

"New groups of people are coming forward that have the best interests of the town at heart and are presenting new ideas."

"As part of the 'localism' agenda, then our challenge as a town council is to listen to these messages and develop a wider shared agenda embracing as many organisations and individuals as possible."

She said councillors must also listen to the town's young people.



Whittington Castle



MAY EVENTS AT WHITTINGTON CASTLE

30th April / 1st-2nd May

RE-ENACTMENT, 3 DAY EVENT WITH HISTORIA NORMANNIS OVER 80 RE-ENACTORS - £1 ENTRANCE FEE THE NORMANS ARE COMING!

But don't worry - they're really rather friendly! Medieval re-enactment society Historia Normannis will be at Whittington Castle for the May Bank Holiday - Saturday 30th April/Sunday 1st May and Monday 2nd May, and will bring a little slice of medieval England with them! Over 80 Re-enactors will be on the site for this invasion!

You'll be able to see craftsmen at work, such as leather workers, carpenters and pewter-casters, watch medieval soldiers demonstrating their prowess, and even see a reconstruction of a medieval siege engine, making it a great day out for all the family.

The group will be in the castle grounds from Saturday to Monday and will open to the public from 9.00 am onwards on all 3 days - though the main events are to be seen between 11.00 am and 4.00 pm including large-scale battle displays. Timetable for the days is approximately

9.00 am	SITE GOES AUTHENTIC	1.00 pm	FIRST BATTLE DISPLAY
10.00 am	COMBAT BEGINS IN ARENA - EARL'S TENT OPENS TO PUBLIC	2.00 pm	LUNCH
11.00 am	EARL'S COURT/CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS	3.00 pm	ARCHERY DEMONSTRATIONS
12.00 pm	SIEGE ENGINE DISPLAY	4.00 pm	SECOND BATTLE DISPLAY (POSSIBLY SIEGE ATTEMPT)
		5.00 pm	FINAL COMBAT DISPLAYS IN ARENA - SITE CLOSES

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Refreshments on site including Hog Roast. Side stalls inside and out

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WHITTINGTON CASTLE EXCITING NEW PHASE OF RESTORATION AND EVENTS



Whittington Castle is entering a new phase of restoration. Since 2007 when the castle was re-launched after a huge restoration project it has been drawing visitors from far and wide. It is an iconic landmark which was on the at-risk register and without the forward thinking of Whittington Castle Preservation Trust, (made up of local Volunteer Trustees), the castle would have decayed beyond repair. Now it is a visitor attraction, wedding venue, educational centre and the pride of the local community.

Peter Ray Chairman says

It actually takes about 75K to run the castle annually. We are a charity and we have no grants, raising the money needed to maintain the castle through our business and donations. We rely heavily on volunteers who work at the castle and we are very grateful to them all.



The Castle is looking for new volunteers as they are entering an exciting new phase in its history. New landscaping plans will shortly be launched for the castle grounds. They also have a great and varied events programme planned for this year.

The largest event takes place this weekend. Historia Normannis, a Norman-themed re-enactment group from Saturday 30th April until 2nd May. This 3-day large event promises to be the ideal family day.



There will also be stalls selling handcrafted stained glass items, jewellery, mini helmets, and activities such as leather working, printing, excavating Norman toys, badge making for children to get a real hand on experience. Refreshments on site include Hog Roast, ice creams and light snacks. This event will cost £1 each and so is great value for all the family.

Other events include House of the Blackstar Re-enactment Group, Car boot sales, Plant Fairs, Open Air Production. Please see the website for more details.

WELSHPOOL

Tel: 01691 668094

club quashes sponsor fears

by Graham Breeze

FOOTBALL FANS in Welshpool were this week told that sponsorship money owed to the town's senior football club would be paid.

Welshpool Town FC changed its name to Technogroup Welshpool FC as part of a sponsorship deal at the start of the 2008/09 season.

The club was then in the Welsh Premier League but this season the club has competed in the Cymru Alliance League. However there were fears that the club had not received the agreed sponsorship package from Technogroup, one of the town's biggest companies. However the club's general secretary Liam Pritchard has moved to assure followers that the firm will meet its commitment.

Rumours

"There have been lots of rumours that Technogroup would not be fulfilling their sponsorship commitments to the club this season," he said. "I can confirm that these rumours are categorically false."

"I've been in contact with Technogroup over the past few weeks to discuss the matter and we have reached an agreement whereby the remaining sponsorship money will be paid in full and we as a club are delighted."

"A number of malicious rumours have been circulating around the town throughout the season but they are completely without foundation. Technogroup have been a great supporter and partner of the football club for a number of years now and, for us, there was never any suggestion that the money would not be forthcoming."

"A proportion of the promised cash was delayed but the football club appreciate that these are very difficult financial times for all companies across the world and we have always been confident that it was a case of when, not if, the settlement would take place."

No-one at the Technogroup company, based on the Henfaes Lane Industrial Park, was available to comment.

Welshpool were this week relegated and will now play in the Spar Mid Wales League.



Paul Oliver is making a name for himself in the music industry

Paul is hitting music scene

A WELSHPOOL singer-songwriter is fast making a name for himself in the music industry.

Paul Oliver, son of John and Mal Oliver of Kilkewydd, is creating his own sound in the dance scene under the name of his great-grandfather Pryce Oliver.

He is currently involved in collaborations with some of the finest DJs in the industry and is

signed to Archangelle Management under the guidance of Grammy award-winning producer/songwriter, Bruce Elliot Smith. He has collaborated with DJ Micast and has been signed to Universal Records.

In May he travels to Barcelona to shoot a video for a track he has written with Russian DJs Moonbeam called No Regrets.

Employers and employees in Oswestry and The Marches are now able to take advantage of quality legal advice right on their doorsteps.

John Merry, partner and head of Lanyon Bowdler's employment team explains "Our aim is to help employers ensure employment disputes are kept to a minimum, and that when they do arise they are resolved in a manner that best suits the client's requirements."



John Merry, Emma Wilde, Alan Gittins, Ian Glenister

Bi-annual employment law seminars are held across the region, including in Oswestry, helping to keep local employers fully up to date with this ever changing area of law.

In addition Lanyon Bowdler's TLC Employer Protection product offers employers flexible insurance cover against Employment Tribunal awards and settlements, and the legal costs associated with employment disputes and defending health and safety prosecutions. John Merry says "TLC is pretty unique in that it even offers protection where an employer has made some mistakes in dealing with an employment issue, when most if not all rival insurance-backed products would not pay out; and it also offers protection in respect of general commercial disputes and the pursuit of unpaid debts."

Partner Emma Wilde comments "We are really pleased to be able to offer to established clients of the former LG Solicitors and also new clients in the Oswestry area the benefit of the friendly, straightforward and professional employment advice service available from John and all of his team."

To find out more about the TLC product, to receive information about seminars, or to register for the department's regular newsletter, email info@lblaw.co.uk

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WELSHPOOL

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Garden's glory on show

Festival will still go ahead

by Graham Breeze

WELSHPOOL'S MUSIC Festival is to go ahead this year even though it is not being supported by the town council.

The organiser this week announced that he has signed up 20 bands and a further 20 solo acts to perform back-to-back all day on Sunday, May 29.

Kuldip Wesson-Caberwal said: "Our aim is to provide a comprehensive bank holiday weekend of entertainment to suit every age group and every style."

"We want to see this grow into something totally unique placing Welshpool firmly onto the musical map."

"With luck, I hope this event grows similar to Brecon Festival and it is all done to help promote Welshpool, support its business and encourage visitor numbers."

Generosity

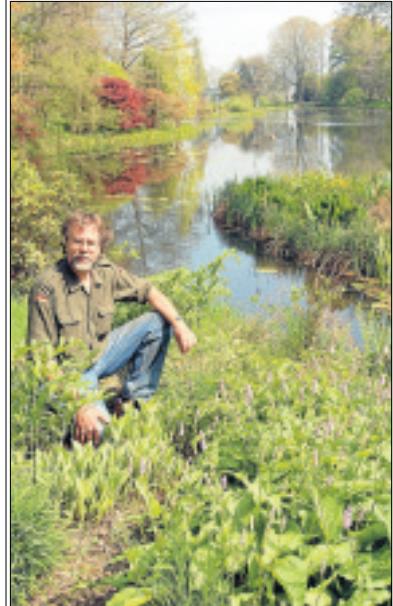
The organisers are planning entertainment from midday to midnight.

"We have street entertainers, buskers, stalls, everything is indoors, so no mud or rain to worry about," said Mr Wesson-Caberwal.

"All the artists are performing free of charge and I am amazed at their generosity. There will be no charge to anyone at any of the participating pubs either. Without any support from the council we are working without any budget but this should still be a truly entertaining day of live music."

He added: "I am overawed at the generosity of the bands and musicians who yet again have come up trumps in their support for the festival and more crucially, their willingness to come and play for no reciprocate.

"We will be forever in their debt for helping us during our 'darkest hour' when yet again, for the third year running we have received no external funding."



Glansevern Hall Gardens, off the A483 near Welshpool, are opening for the season from today. The gardens will then be staying open until October 1 with viewing available on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and bank holidays. By the lake is head gardener, Paul Durrant, who has been looking after the grounds for the last 25 years.

Brewing up funds

A FUNDRAISING coffee morning is being held by Welshpool Women's Institute on Saturday.

The event takes place from 9.30am to 12noon in The Church House with plenty of stalls, refreshments and a draw.

The monthly WI meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Methodist schoolroom, in High Street, starting at 7.30pm. If you would like to join and need a lift call Freda Davies on (01938) 552817.

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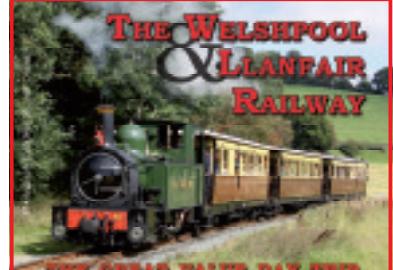


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WELSHPOOL

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Rare cabinet is sold at auction for £120,000



The rare George I scarlet and gilt Japanned bureau cabinet

By Graham Breeze

A RARE BUREAU cabinet, discovered in the Welshpool area, has sold at auction for £120,000.

The superb scarlet and gilt Japanned double domed bureau cabinet, described by Halls's fine art director Jeremy Lamond as "probably the best piece of furniture consigned to the company for a decade" sold to a London trade buyer.

Consigned by an anonymous Welshpool area vendor, the bureau cabinet was the top selling lot at Halls's £484,000 auction of antique furniture, ceramics and works of art at the Welsh Bridge saleroom in Shrewsbury.

It was purchased in London before the Second World War and had more than a passing resemblance to a similar piece attributed to John Belchier in the state bedroom at Erddig, near Wrexham.

Class

"There are very few red lacquered pieces from that period still in existence and it was extremely rare for one to be offered at auction," said Mr Lamond.

"In its day, this piece of furniture was the Ferrari of its class."

"It would have been made for the bedroom of a top country house around 1720."

"It is difficult to attribute a maker as many London and provincial makers were guided by 'Treatise of Japaning and Varnishing' by John Stalker and George Parker in 1688."

The cabinet was decorated all over with gilded chinoiserie, including flowers and mounted figures on the fall, and the interior was just as impressive as the exterior.

Behind the ogee arched glazed mirror doors of the double domed top lay an elaborate interior of pigeon holes and short drawers.

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NEWS**Funds to be raised at garden open day**

AN ANNUAL OPEN garden event at Whittington, which has raised thousands of pounds for a children's charity, is on May 1 this year.

Doug Molesworth and wife Barbara started opening their garden in Daisy Lane for Save the Children when he retired as the head of the village primary school two decades ago.

They were joined by their next door neighbours about five years ago and after Mr Molesworth lost his long battle with cancer three years ago, Mrs Molesworth pledged to carry on fundraising for as long as she could.

This year's event will run between 10.30am and 5pm at Byeways and the neighbouring garden.

Mrs Molesworth said: "Mandy and Miles German always work very hard on their garden and are helped by their two daughters, Lydia, 12, and Maisie, 15, so it is a real family effort."

She added that there would be plant sales at modest prices.

The Shropshire Wildlife Trust will also have a display at Byeways during the day and there will also be help and advice from the county's Master Composters.

The cost of entry is £1.50 with children's entry free. Dogs are welcome.

Workshop plans

A DISUSED agricultural building near Oswestry could become a workshop. Ian Jones, of Granary House, Ebnal Hall Farm, Rhosyngafra, Gobowen, has applied to convert it.

Dream now reality after trains run again in town

by Graham Breeze

TRAIN HAVE finally returned to Oswestry for the first time in 44 years. A two-year dream turned into a reality for a heritage group determined to return the railway to the town.

Passengers were given a chance to step back in time on Friday as the first train since 1967 left the station in Oswestry.

It was full steam ahead for up to 100 people who attended the launch of the new Cambrian Heritage Railway service, the culmination of two years of hard work.

And despite running half-an-hour behind schedule because of vandalism, organisers failed to let it dampen their spirits.

Nigel Davies, chairman of Cambrian Heritage Railways, said it had taken two years of hard work, and the dream of seeing trains operate from the main line in Gobowen to Llanyblodwel, was now one step closer to becoming a reality.

The first stretch of fully restored line runs from Oswestry's Victorian Station Building to the Middleton Road Bridge in the town and is half a mile long.

Pleased

He said the service operated between 11am and 4pm throughout the weekend.

"It will also operate every weekend and bank holiday over the summer months too," Mr Davies said.

"Despite the day starting with a slight glitch we managed to get the train running every half-an-hour throughout the day."

"We've all worked incredibly hard to get to the point where we are now and I'm just incredibly pleased that we've managed to get here."

"We had some very positive feedback from the people who visited."

"We have even signed up some new members and volunteers, which is great," he added.

Nicola Williams from Oswestry, one of the passengers on board the second train, said: "It's nice to see that a stretch of the line has been reopened and I hope the bigger plan comes into fruition sooner rather than later."



Volunteers Mathew Higgins and Phil Bradley

Brothers freed in affray case

TWO BROTHERS facing trial on a charge of affray following an incident at an Oswestry pub have both walked free from court after the prosecution offered no evidence against them.

Christopher and Mark Price had been held in custody since the alleged incident in November. The brothers, of Hawthorn Grove, Oswestry, had denied affray at The George at Bailey Head on November 19.

Judge Mark Eades, at Shrewsbury Crown Court, recorded no guilty verdicts after prosecutor Mr Robert Edwards said there was no realistic prospect of a conviction. The two men were given prison terms for other sentences by Judge Eades, but were released because of the time spent on remand.



Dave Morris from Cambrian Heritage Railways

NEWS**in brief****Action call for dairy farmers**

DAIRY FARMERS in the Welshpool area are being encouraged by NFU Cymru to fight to ensure fairer milk contract terms and eliminate unfair commercial practices in the dairy supply chain.

They are being pressed to lobby their MPs, prospective AMs and milk buyers.

NFU Cymru deputy president Stephen James said: "I want to make this quite clear - the dairy market in this country is not working, which means that dairy farmers are losing out."

"The industry lurches from crisis to crisis and has suffered over a decade of underinvestment and low profitability."

The European Commission has come forward with a package of measures, which include improvements to milk contracts, which Mr James said could make a real difference to dairy farmers.

Push to apply for licence online

PEOPLE WANTING to apply for a premises licence to sell alcohol in the Powys authority area are being encouraged to do it online.

Powys County Council wants people to apply online by visiting www.powys.gov.uk/licensing

It has been designed to make it easier for business bosses and residents to access, and the applications are submitted via central government before being processed by council officers.

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The British Grand Prix is the oldest race in the Formula 1 calendar, reaching its 61st anniversary in 2011. Originally a Second World War airfield, Silverstone has hosted the race regularly since 1950, and every year since 1987.

The circuit is famous for being one of the fastest and most challenging tracks, testing even the best driver's skills to the limit.

After victory in front of his home fans in 2008, Lewis Hamilton will be looking to emulate this success again, whilst Jenson Button would love to win at Silverstone and join the list of elite British drivers to win in front of a home crowd, including Jackie Stewart, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and David Coulthard.

Please note: Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of any driver, and refunds will not be given in this event.

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NEWS

Hopes of tackling domestic violence

AN OSWESTRY lawyer with one of the area's largest family law teams has welcomed the Government announcement that all domestic abuse deaths will be automatically reviewed in England and Wales to ensure lessons about violence in the home are learned.

Alison Monaghan, a solicitor at GHP Legal, says there has been a substantial increase in domestic abuse cases in recent years, many involving teenage women.

"In respect of domestic abuse leading to death, published figures show that almost 100 women are killed by partners or ex-partners each year, whilst 21 men died from domestic abuse in England and Wales last year," she said.

"Whilst domestic violence is nothing new, it is only in the last 10 years that it has been taken seriously as a criminal justice issue. Despite that, in some quarters it is still being flippantly referred to as 'just another domestic'."

"Under the new rules mandatory case reviews will be carried out by all involved agencies, including the police and health services."

"This new policy is a welcome change. Hopefully lessons can be learned for the future."

Fun in canoes

CANADIAN-STYLE canoes are available from the Friends of the Montgomery Canal for a donation at Maesbury. For details call (01691) 831455.

Pylon campaign will head to Cardiff in huge protest

Chance to have say at talks

Special report by Graham Breeze at the rally

CAMPAIGNERS AGAINST plans that could see hundreds of pylons built across Shropshire and Mid Wales will descend on Cardiff next month to lobby politicians.

More than 1,500 people packed Welshpool Livestock Market last week to attend one of largest public meetings seen in Montgomeryshire for years.

And big names turned out to add their names in support of stopping the National Grid proposals including weather presenter Sian Lloyd and Jane Ashley, the daughter of fashion designer Laura Ashley.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who organised the meeting, said he would lead thousands of people to the Welsh Assembly to help fight the proposals.

He said he would also be calling for a debate in

Westminster but the deciding vote would ultimately rest with politicians in Cardiff.

"We need to get busloads of people to go down and make the politicians in Cardiff see that we mean business and are not going to let this happen," said Mr Davies.

National Grid wants to build a substation at either Cefn Coch or Abermule and then run a 400,000 volt power line across one of several proposed routes to north Shropshire. The grid says the move is vital if it is to harness wind power in Mid Wales and transfer it to its infrastructure.

Here's what some of those fighting the plans said at the Welshpool meeting:

Glyn Davies MP: "These absolutely awful plans will desecrate our countryside. They depress me. The Welsh Assembly is trying to destroy a section of country that it should be looking after. I will lead an invasion to Cardiff to show them how much we oppose them."

Sian Lloyd, TV weather girl: "This is the rape of our fair country. The science of wind farms is dodgy to say the very least. On some days during the cold snap they were only operating at 0.2 per cent of their capacity. Simply put, these



MP Glyn Davies speaks to the crowds

wind farms are an expensive disaster. They do not work. This madness has got to stop."

Myfanwy Alexander, writer/broadcaster: "These are crazy plans for vandalism which we will never forgive them for if they go ahead. It is an argument about politics and money, not wind."

Fight

Jane Ashley, daughter of Laura Ashley: "We must all fight these plans together. It is not too late. To see so many people here tonight feeling so passionately about the landscape they live in is a clear message to the politicians."

Lord Alex Carlile, former Montgomeryshire MP: "These plans are an expensive folly and an insult to Welsh landscape. I have opposed such wind farms since 1992 and will continue to do so."

Iolo Williams, TV personality: "I detest wind farms. It is only lately that we have all realised the associated works that come with them that will damage the whole area. Tan 8 must be thrown out."

Peter Ogden, director of Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales: "We must win

fast in this race against time. Support Glyn's idea to invade Cardiff. The proposals are all rotten apples. I urge you to oppose them all."

John Wilkinson, Meifod dairy farmer: "I am urging a unified campaign. Not just to say 'not here and build them somewhere else'. They should not be built at all, anywhere."

Tony Caplin, Abermule campaigner: "They plan to build a 20-acre substation 100 yards from 1,000 people in 350 houses. Those house prices will come down and people's lives will be ruined. It is only 200 yards from the school and parents will take their children elsewhere and it will close. The village's largest employer is thinking of pulling out too. Everybody is seriously worried."

Steve Elliot, Shropshire campaigner: "Save some space on the bus to Cardiff Montgomeryshire, because Shropshire is coming with you!"

Gary Swain, Four Crosses campaigner: "At the Meifod meeting the nice lady from the energy company told us these plans were merely 'industrialising the landscape'. What they're doing is annihilating the landscape."

NEWS**in brief****Summer season of walks to start**

AN EVENING walk around Trefonen Coalfield signals the start of Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group's summer season on May 13.

The walk is followed on June 10 by an evening visit to the shrine church of St Melangell, Pennant Melangell. People should meet at nearby Llangynog Car Park at 6.45pm.

On July 9 there will be an all-day excursion to Montgomery, which will take in a guided tour of the town and castle with Margaret Hill, with a visit to the Old Bell Museum and the nearby hill fort of Ffridd Falwyn.

Tickets are £9 and prior booking is essential on (01691) 662602.

Mountain bikes stolen from home

TWO MOUNTAIN bikes valued at £1,000 were stolen from an Oswestry home when its garage was broken into.

Police are investigating the Maple Avenue burglary which happened between 11pm on Monday and 6am on Tuesday. They are appealing for information on 0300 333 3000.

The thieves took a blue and white Acid Cube mountain bike worth £700 and a silver GT Avalanche bike valued at £300.

Hedge destroyed in blaze drama

FIREFIGHTERS FROM Baschurch were called out to a hedge fire at the weekend. The alarm was raised in Melverley Lane, Pentre, at 9.48pm on Saturday and the blaze was under control by 10.30pm. About 10 metres of hedge was destroyed.

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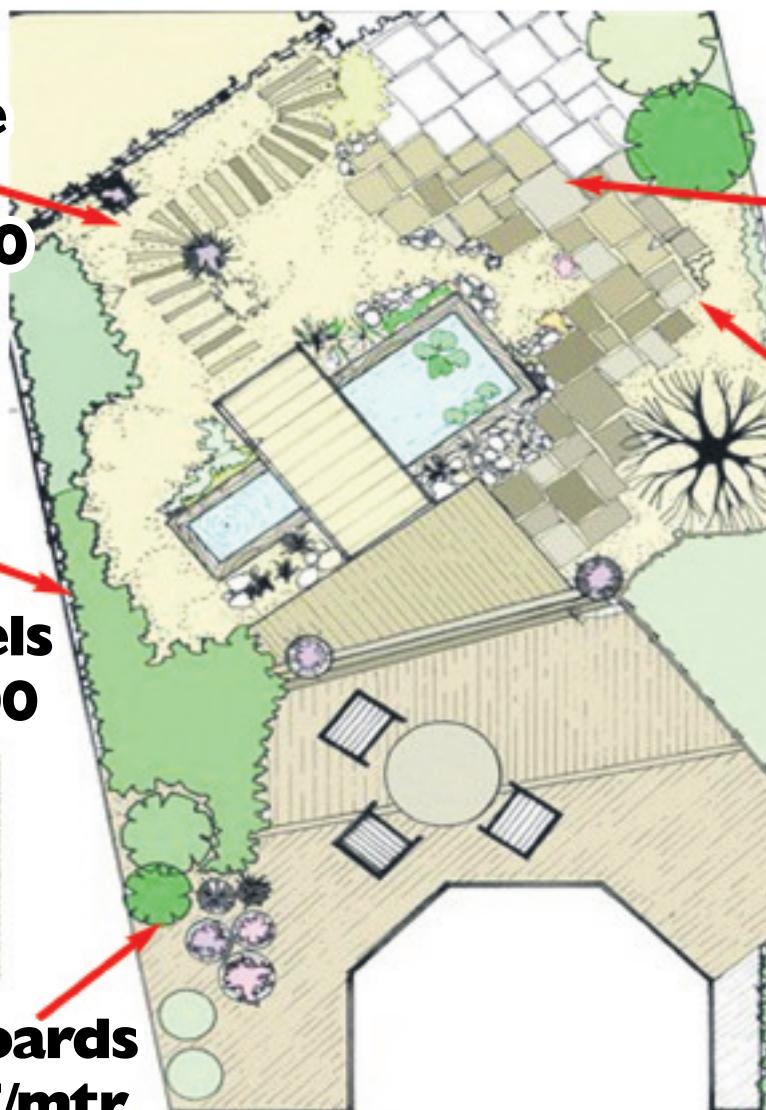
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NEWS**Family's upset at hospital's baby care**

THE GRANDMOTHER of an 11-week-old baby who was born almost three months premature has hit out at what she claims is poor treatment by a leading children's hospital.

Ann Savage, from Oswestry, said her grandson, Caidn Thomas, from Castle Caereinion, near Welshpool, has been in and out of hospital since January.

Last week Caidn was taken into the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital by his mother, Rebecca Thomas, after he fell ill at home. He was diagnosed as having a hernia and was then sent to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, for an operation.

Mrs Savage said: "We were told Rebecca and Caidn would receive all the help they needed and care and comfort as well as transport home. But when they were there they were told they couldn't get free transport home and if they couldn't get a lift then they needed to go by train or bus."

Mrs Savage said Rebecca was also upset about the time it took to do the operation. She said she had now lodged an official complaint.

A spokeswoman for Alder Hey Hospital said it did not comment on individual cases.

Summer dance

WELSHPOOL ROTARY Club will be holding a summer ball on June 25 at the town's Royal Oak Hotel at 7pm. Tickets are £30 and are available by calling (01938) 552 217.

Hundreds entertained as £2m complex lines up fun

by Graham Breeze

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE enjoyed an Easter extravaganza at a new £2 million leisure and entertainment complex in Oswestry.

The first phase of the McLarens complex opened at the weekend, giving visitors the chance to see how the building has been transformed. The new leisure complex includes an indoor play barn for children, plus a cafe and is built in the town's former railway engineering sheds off the Gobowen Road. The entertainment centre is

the brainchild of Llangollen hotelier Stephanie Booth.

She says that the complex will eventually create 100 jobs.

Future work on the huge complex will include creating function rooms and offices.

Mrs Booth said: "The opening was a phenomenal success with visitors from all over Shropshire coming to Oswestry, which can only be good for the town."

Train

On Sunday and yesterday visitors to the complex were able to enjoy outdoor fairground rides.

There was also the chance for people to enjoy a trip on a land train.

The fun house and cafe are now open daily at the complex.

And the entertainment site is already gearing up for another long bank holiday this weekend, with plenty of fun lined up for all the family.

Mrs Booth, a railway enthusiast, said she was also keen to work closely with the site's neighbours, the Cambrian Heritage Railways, which also drew crowds over the weekend.



The visitor train running at the event



Children have fun inside the building



Simon and Sarah Meredith with their daughter Lucy Meredith, nine

NEWS**in brief**

Dressing up with 'Joseph' theme
FAMILIES FROM Welshpool and the surrounding villages are being encouraged to dress up as characters from the story of Joseph for a fun day at Maesdyre School on May 2.

There will be fun for all including a bouncy castle and a ride-on train. The day runs from 10am-4pm with a short service taking place in the afternoon.

Those who dress up in their coat of many colours for the Joseph theme will get to take part in a pageant. Bishop of St Asaph, the Right Reverend Dr Gregory K Cameron, will be the special guest at the fun day.

The Reverend Canon Roger Bird, vicar of Guisfield and Buttington, who has led the organisation team, said: "We've been making the preparations for this since Christmas 2010 and it's a way of showing young families here that the Church cares for them."

Police call over garden security

POLICE HAVE urged Oswestry residents to help the force "weed out" garden crime by improving their garden, shed and allotment security.

"Although many people take steps to protect their homes and the property inside them, they leave valuable equipment in gardens and unsecured sheds, providing easy pickings," said a spokesman.

"Around 1,500 shed burglaries take place every year within West Mercia."

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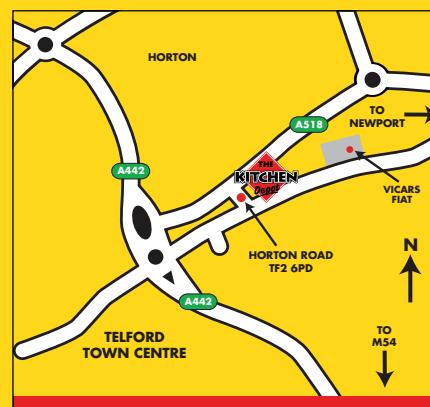
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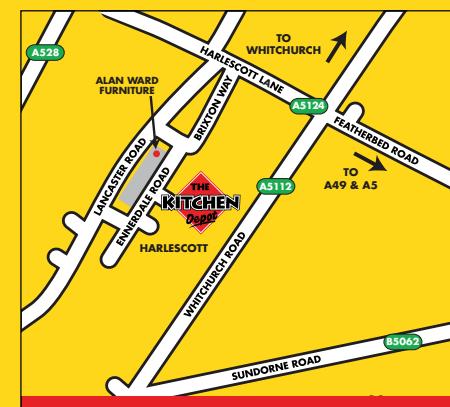


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NEWS

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Plenty of smiles as life's a purl

DOWN YOUR STREET

with Ben Bentley



Laundrette attendant Emma Lees



Ray Smith in his window



Chris Jones, rugby club manager

WARM, HUMID. Hang-your-knickers-on-the-line weather. There is a whole micro-climate at the laundrette on Unicorn Road that relies little upon the fickle fancies of Mother Nature.

The laundrette is a talking shop; people watch their underwear go round and round in a strangely hypnotic fashion, and chat to attendant Emma Lees.

"We have our regular customers come in and we like to have a chat and put the world to rights," says Emma.

"It's a place to meet, we are on first-name terms with customers," she adds, waving through the window at a passing client.

Washed

To the soundtrack that is the busy hum of washing and ironing, it's clear that here is a Cinderella service for people with neither the time nor the inclination for washing their dirty laundry in public.

"If it can be washed and ironed, we do it for people," says Emma.

"Some drop their washing off for collection later, others pop in, load a tub and pop off to do a spot of shopping."

"They start the washing off and we will keep an eye on it, or they can drop the whole lot off and we do it for them. We do a lot for clubs and businesses."

"And we have a lot of businessmen who drop off their



trousers." Presumably wearing a spare pair, rather than a recreation of that famous Levi's TV commercial.

Chris Jones, manager of Oswestry Rugby Club's first team, comes in with several dozen dirty rugby kits.

"On a good week it's three senior kits and a couple of junior kits—that can be 60 shirts," says Chris.

For a strapping bloke like Chris, the bags of dirty rugby kit provide as good a workout as any training session.

"And we also do the first team for New Saints," adds Emma. "There's always something going on here, you just see the world carrying on through the window, and the changing of the

seasons. You walk past sometimes and the windows are all steamed up... when we are busy ironing."

The occupational hazards of a laundrette attendant.

Edna Parker, a resident with a bag of laundry to get through, says: "I'm just here with my everyday things—bed linen and towels. My washing machine is not working so I've been using this place for a few weeks."

Clothing materials are also the currency of well-known local knitter.

Welcome to the crotchetted world of Christine Vaughan, whose living room, in a flat above the shops, is a veritable emporia of wool balls and needles and patterns waiting to spring into cardigans and pram blankets.

"I knit," she says simply when asked about her hobby.

"I'm known for knitting in Oswestry. I'm known for knitting all over the world—I used to knit for a company and they used to send my work to Hong Kong, Australia, all over."

"I once did a cardigan with a circular knitting needle, which I'd never done before, and I saw the sweater I did in a TV magazine."

Any unusual knitting requests?

Scarves

"Scarves," says Christine. "Dr Who scarves, like Jon Pertwee's or that Tom Baker—the long flowing ones with all the colours."

Over the road, Ray Smith is sitting in his window. I have to say, I've never seen Ray Smith's legs, only Ray from the neck

up—the Ray I talk to through the window on a weekday.

People know Ray as "Swansea", on account of the fact that he comes from, er, Swansea. It's an Army thing, from the days when he came up from south Wales in 1952 and did his national service at Park Hall, "spud peeling", he says.

He eyes the laundrette over the road. Does he use it?

"Now and again, but not on a day like this," he says peering at the cloudless sky, a breeze that would dry underwear without breaking a sweat.

"But I don't hang my smalls out because they nick 'em!"

Ray, 77, is a card, pointed out earlier by Christine as a "character" worth a visit, and he doesn't disappoint. Seamlessly, Ray manages to knit together Christine's hobby and his underwear habits.

"She knitted me a pair of undies, but it took six balls of wool!" This is Ray getting his own back on a friendly neighbour, using the best weapon available—his sense of humour.

As I bid farewell, he adds: "You'll see me jogging down the road, we may get to see Ray's legs after all..."

● For part two of Unicorn Road, see next week's Oswestry Chronicle.



Christine Vaughan

Council does not feel flush in loo bid

LLANFYLLIN TOWN Council must find extra funding if it is to take on the running of its public toilets. It has been asked to consider taking over the loos to help Powys County Council save money.

But town officials fear it would cost too much.

It will cost between £5,000 and £6,000 to run the toilets.

Town clerk Angela Vause said the council could not afford the running costs as it would be a third of its annual budget.

"There is no way the council can finance that," she said. "We don't feel able to take that on unless we can have access to funding."

"If the cost to run the toilets came out of the annual budget that is a third of the money we spend a year."

"The danger is, although it wasn't said, that they will close if we don't take them on. It is a danger we are aware of."

"They didn't say they would close them but it is one way of saving money."

Town councillors are now looking into funding sources to keep the toilets open because they believe they are valuable to the town.

The council will discuss the issue at next month's meeting.

Meeting set

THE WELSHPOOL and District University of the Third Age meets on May 3 at 10.30am at Welshpool's Church House. For more details call (01686) 668776.

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NEWS

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Top talks on fate of park and ride



Paul Evans and Stuart Rogers with Vanessa Thomas, of Hope House
In the pink for fundraiser

FOUR SHROPSHIRE men have handed over more than £1,000 to charity after completing a sponsored journey across Europe in a bright pink car.

Paul Evans, Stuart Rogers and Andy Evans, from Oswestry, as well as Ade Barrow, from Chirk, spent five days driving thousands of miles for Hope House Hospice in the Screwball Rally.

The group spray painted a BMW 320 given to them for the event in the colour pink. They also decided to wear pink dresses as part of the challenge.

By Graham Breeze
THE FATE of a park and ride scheme taking people from a planned new supermarket and cinema development in Oswestry into the town centre will be decided today.

Shropshire Council granted permission for the controversial development on part of the town's Smithfield Livestock market last year.

A legal condition of the permission was that the complex should include a park and ride scheme and developer Liberty Mercian was told it would have to sign an agreement to provide the shoppers' bus.

But now confusion over how long developers would have to be responsible for the scheme has led to the council calling a special meeting, due to take place today in the council chamber, at the Castle View offices in Oswestry.

Provision

A report from planning officer Tim Rogers said the agreement was to provide a shuttle bus between the site and town centre for 20 years. He says: "It is clear that the provision of a shuttle bus was a fundamental part of the decision to approve the scheme."

Mr Rogers said it would be in no-one's interest to continue to run a shuttle bus if it was not used by the public. But he said if it did not operate over the full 20 years, there should be a payment to the council, following a "robust" review to ensure the scheme was not viable.

He said: "This sum would have to be spent by the council to provide other means of sustainable links between the site and town centre."

Campaigners are expected to protest outside the council offices before the meeting. The Oswestry 21 group had called for a larger venue to accommodate members of the public.

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NEWS**Fireman honoured for aiding orphans**

AN OSWESTRY firefighter is one of a group of volunteers from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service honoured for charity work with Bulgarian orphans.

Retained firefighter Alan Walker is one of a 10-strong group of firefighters, councillors and a control room operator who raised more than £3,000 for three Bulgarian orphanages.

They raised the money with a number of fundraising activities including the Oswestry Santa Run, a bucket collection at Shrewsbury Town FC and donations and raffles.

They were presented with the Telfent Charity Shield, an annual award for those making an outstanding contribution to charity, during the annual long service and good conduct medals ceremony for firefighters and staff, held at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn.

Presenting the award was Telfent project manager Dharminder Thiara, who said: "Charity is a main objective in our lives."

"They have done a great job to put a smile on little children's faces and represent the fire service in Bulgaria and helping people who need help."

During a visit to Bulgaria last year the volunteers also transported and donated two fire engines, uniforms and equipment to the Ruse fire service.

They gave 200 donated smoke alarms to the orphans and delighted youngsters with Shrewsbury Town football strips and a collection of soft toys.

OsFest to be 'biggest yet' with top stars on stage

THE ORGANISERS of OsFest say they are on track to deliver the biggest star-studded Shropshire music festival ever.

With a month to go before the May 27 bank holiday weekend event manager Carly Jackson says the OsFest headquarters is buzzing with ticket sales.

OsFest will be returning to the Oswestry showground which hosted Shropshire's massive star-studded event last year.

The festival has since been described as the largest summer festival in the county and this year's event includes a host of chart-topping acts.

Pair can pick up golf clubs in free event

TWO'S COMPANY when it comes to a new scheme to encourage more people in the Oswestry area to take up golf.

Oswestry Golf Club is offering four one-hour coaching sessions to couples – whether they be husband and wife, partners, family relations or just friends – for free.

"This is a great opportunity for people who want to try playing golf to come along and give it a go with their partner, family member or friend," said head professional Jason Davies, who is also head coach for the Shropshire and Herefordshire County Golf Partnership County Academy programme. "It's nice to try something new in the company of someone you know."

The four sessions take place in May, each Tuesday from May 3, between 6 and 7pm at the club's Aston Park course.

The scheme is aimed at people of all ages who are interested in golf, but are not yet members of a club.

For further details and registration contact Jason on 01691 610448 or e-mail jason.davies@foremostgolf.com

The free coaching for couples is one of a number of projects aimed at increasing participation in golf run under the umbrella of the Shropshire and Herefordshire Golf Partnership.

Carly Jackson said that ticket sales had soared after the Easter weekend.

She added: "In just 30 days, Oswestry showground will witness OsFest for the second time, however this year it is going to be bigger and better."

"After the fantastic weather over Easter bank holiday weekend, ticket sales have soared with people feeling summer festival fever."

"We are looking forward to massive chart-topping act Example, The Feeling, Tinchy Stryder plus top 10 acts Labrinth and Aggro Santos."

Excited

"We are also excited to welcome back Goldie Lookin' Chain."

This year the festival will also be putting the spotlight on emerging talent Missing Andy and Paradise Point. Massive headliners will take to the stage in the dance arena including Radio One's "In New DJ's We Trust" – Toddla T and Jaymo & Andy George.

The OsFest box office shop will be opening for the first time this weekend at Number 27 Baytree Street in Oswestry town centre.

People can purchase their tickets there and for this weekend only, there is a special offer with £5 off every ticket.

You can also purchase tickets online at www.osfest.co.uk or contact the OsFest booking line on (01691) 680468.

Festival tickets up for grabs



Sue Furse and Carly Jackson from OsFest help launch the competition with The Severn's Neil Bentley

THE SEVERN, Shropshire's local radio station, has prizes available for four lucky listeners to attend OsFest in May.

And there's one extra special package including one night's stay at Lion Quays, near Oswestry.

Listeners to The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show on 106.5, 107.1 & 107.4 The Severn can be entered into a draw by answering a question daily from May 2 to May 5 with the winners' prizes being allocated on May 6 in an exciting random draw.

Prizes include a pair of tickets for Saturday only, a pair of tickets for Sunday only, a pair of tickets for full weekend camping and a pair of VIP tickets to receive priority treatment.

The VIP tickets include priority parking, camping, indoor seated viewing of the stage, access to the VIP bar and when the festival has wrapped up on Sunday night you can go to the Lion Quays for a night in one of their luxury suites to scrub up and get a good night's sleep before the drive home.

NEWS | in brief

Plea to 'donate' hour for heroes

HELP FOR HEROES are calling for volunteers to help with one of their biggest fundraising pushes yet.

During July 1 and 2, the organisation is appealing for help at collecting days at Tesco stores.

"There is a huge opportunity for you to do your bit during nationwide collecting days at your local Tesco store, whether that be for a few hours or all day," said Bryn Parry OBE, CEO and co-founder of Help for Heroes.

The volunteering days form part of the Help for Heroes One Hour for Heroes appeal which launched earlier this month, with everyone from politicians, companies, sportsmen and celebrities to millions of generous people giving up one hour to help.

"It is our hope that the 1H4H call to action will be heard across the country and become a demonstration of national support for our boys and girls," said Mr Parry.

If you're interested in collecting at your local Tesco store, or to find your local store, call 01725 514121, or visit the Help for Heroes website at www.helpforheroes.org.uk.

Recycling visit by club members

MEMBERS OF Ellesmere & District 41 Club had a visit to Tudor Griffiths Group followed by a meal at the Burton Inn.

David Webster, vice chairman, headed a contingent of 20 members to the recycling business's site in Wood Lane, Ellesmere.

Advice on all courses at Shrewsbury College



Tuesday 3 May, 5.00-7.00pm

Main Campus, London Road, Shrewsbury

Whether you are a school leaver or an adult returning to college
... just drop in and we will find a course that is right for you.

Part-time courses starting in May for Adult Learners - ENROL NOW!

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- Languages
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- Computing
- Health & Safety
- Music
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Refurbished town house full of original features



3 Victoria Parade, Oswestry

THIS attractively restored period town house boasts many original features including open fireplaces, sash windows and stripped floorboards.

The spacious internal accommodation at 3 Victoria Parade, Oswestry, is set over four floors and includes four double bedrooms, two reception rooms and cellar. There is off road parking to the rear for two to three cars along with a lawned garden. All amenities are close at hand with the town centre being within walking distance.

The entrance hall has stripped floorboards and door through to the lounge. The hallway extends through to the kitchen and dining room, having a tiled floor and staircase to the first floor. There is also the original bell system in the hallway and a pane glazed door to the garden area. Doors also provide access to the cloakroom and cellar.

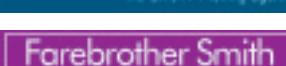
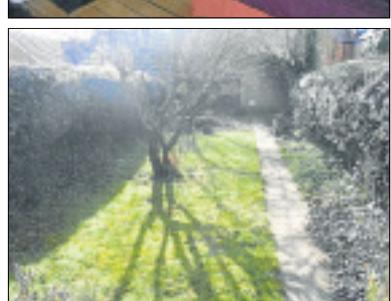
The kitchen is fitted with maple effect units, range style gas cooker with large extractor fan over, original cast iron oven with brick fireplace, space for fridge freezer, door to the utility and two windows to the side overlooking the garden area. The utility has a quarry tiled floor, sink, plumbing for washing machine and vent for tumble dryer. A door leads out onto the shared driveway, giving access to the parking area and garden.

Parking

A brick paved shared pathway leads to the front door. At the back of the property, a door leads from the hall to the garden area which has a brick pathway, bark and shrub beds and a workshop/ shed.

A shared gravelled driveway gives access to the two parking spaces with the property and further garden area with a brick built barbecue and garden shed. Beyond this there is a lawned area with a chicken enclosure and shed.

The property is on the market for £189,950. Call **TOWN & COUNTRY** on 01938 679631 for more details.



5-bed Edwardian residence looks out across town

THIS spacious detached Edwardian town house is situated in an elevated location overlooking Oswestry.

The well maintained accommodation at 28 Hampton Road, Oswestry, comprises an entrance hall with understairs cupboards' sitting room with door to the gardens and a Victorian fireplace with radiant gas fire fitting, dining room, living room with curved bay window overlooking the town, cloakroom, study, kitchen/breakfast room, rear lobby with external door to the gardens, and a large utility.

The timber staircase rises up from the hall to the landing, off which is the master bedroom with fitted wardrobes and ensuite shower room, four further bedrooms and the family bathroom.

Outside, the gated approach to the main gravel drive and hardstanding to the fore is accessed off Hampton Road. A secondary private shared drive leads alongside the house to a further hardstanding area and the two single garages.

The well maintained garden surrounds the house on three sides and affords paved seating to both front and rear, lawns, shrub borders and screen hedging. Stairs lead up off the rear paved patio up to the office.

The house benefits from double glazing and gas-fired central heating.

To find the property, leave the town centre via Willow Street and turn left onto Welsh Walls.

Viewing

At The Walls restaurant turn right into Brynhaedaf Road and directly onto Hampton Road and No 28 is identified on the right hand side at the junction with Hamptons Fields.

The property is on the market for £399,500 with **MORRIS MARSHALL & POOLE**. Call 01691 679595 for more information or to arrange a viewing.



28 Hampton Road, Oswestry



Farebrother Smith

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SHREWSBURY £515 pcm

NEW
BELGRAVIA COURT, ABBEY FOREGATE
This exceptionally well-appointed and stylish 1-bedroom third floor loft style apartment, located within easy walking distance of the town centre. Security intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan living room and kitchen with built-in oven & hob, washer/dryer and fridge, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower and electric heating. Allocated parking and well maintained communal gardens. Available 25th May 2011



SHREWSBURY £595 pcm

NEW
CHAPEL COURT, ST. JOHNS HILL
This well-presented 1-bedroom second floor apartment is conveniently situated within the heart of Shrewsbury town centre. Security intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan living room and kitchen with built-in oven & hob, washer/dryer and fridge, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower, electric heating. The property benefits from private secure parking. Available beginning of June 2011.



SHREWSBURY £525 pm

NORTH STREET, CASTLEFIELDS
This well appointed 2-bedroom mid terraced house is situated within a popular residential area. Living room, dining room, kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 2 bedrooms, newly fitted bathroom with shower, GCH, easy to maintain gardens. Available NOW.



SHREWSBURY £575 pm

BRASSEY HOUSE, BENBOW QUAY
This immaculately appointed and stylish ground floor furnished one bedroom apartment located within easy walking distance of the town centre and train station. Security intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan living room and kitchen with built-in oven and hob, washer/dryer and fridge, double bedroom with large built-in wardrobes, bathroom with shower and electric heating. The property benefits from large maintained gardens and allocated parking. Available beginning of May 2011.



SHREWSBURY £595 pm

GREENFIELDS STREET
This spacious and newly decorated and carpeted 3-bedroom semi-detached house with an easy walking distance of the town centre and train station. Entrance hall, living room, open plan dining room and kitchen with built-in oven and hob, cellar, three good sized bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property benefits from gas central heating and easy to maintain gardens. Available Mid May 2011.



SHREWSBURY £795 pm

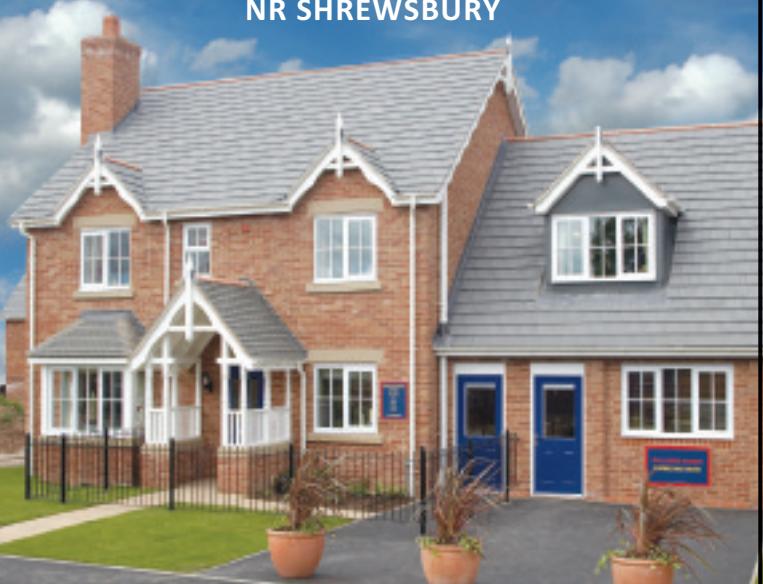
CARLTON CLOSE
This newly decorated and well-appointed 3-bedroom detached family house, is situated within a quiet cul-de-sac position close to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital & local amenities. Entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast room with cooker & fridge, 3 bedrooms (master with ensuite), family bathroom, front and rear gardens, GCH, driveway and garage. Available NOW.

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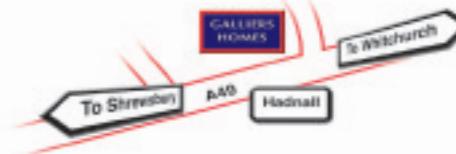
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*Part exchange is subject to suitability & valuation. This offer is available for a limited period only and may be withdrawn at short notice.

Country home has consent for bungalow in grounds

ASUBSTANTIAL village house set in half an acre of gardens comes with planning permission to construct a single storey home within the grounds.

Neilgherry, High Street, Clive, was built in 1925 and features wooden framed double-glazing, gas-fired central heating and a double garage block. Many period features have been retained including original fireplaces, coved cornicing and picture rails.

Downstairs is a reception hall with original decorative tiled floor, understairs cupboard and door to the rear porch. The spacious sitting room has an open fireplace and large bay window overlooking the front garden, and there is a separate dining room with original fireplace.

Study

Another door from the reception hall opens to an inner hallway, which leads to a study overlooking the rear.

A particular feature of the house is the large kitchen/breakfast room, which is fitted with a good range of modern

shaker style units, terrazzo tiled floor, space for appliances and French door to the garden from the breakfast area.

Another door opens to the utility room, which has a sink, plumbing for a washing machine and a service door to the side. An archway leads to a small inner area with door to a downstairs wc, and there is a further door to a boot room.

From the reception hall, an attractive original staircase rises to a large landing with access to roof space. There are four bedrooms, two with cast iron fireplaces and one with an ensuite shower room.

The family bathroom is well fitted with a modern white suite consisting of P-shaped bath, power shower over and basin, and there is a door to a separate cloakroom with wc and basin.

The house is approached through double wooden gates which open to a gravelled driveway, leading to a parking area, and double garage block with up and over doors, power and light.

The gardens extend to half an acre and are mainly laid to neatly kept lawns with a pergola, decking area, patio, ornamental fish pond, fruit trees and vegetable garden.

The lower terraced lawn with vegetable garden has outline planning permission for the construction of a detached bungalow. Further details are available from the agents.

Neilgherry is for sale with a guide price of around £459,500.

To arrange a viewing, contact selling agents **PARRY LOWARCH** by calling 01743 343343.



Neilgherry, High Street, Clive



Baschurch

Prescott Court
Semi detached house
Three bedrooms
Garden ■ Parking for two cars

£595 pcm

Shrewsbury

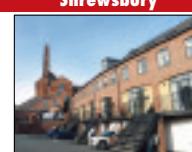


Loppington

The School House
Fully refurbished cottage
Two double bedrooms
Secure rear garden ■ Store & parking

£650 pcm

Marchamley



Shrewsbury

The Brewery
Three bed town house on 4 floors
Terrace garden ■ River views
Garage ■ Parking for 2 cars

£1,250 pcm

Shawbury



Shrewsbury

Brougham Square
Two bedroom terrace
■ Private enclosed rear yard
■ Parking

£525 pcm

Shrewsbury

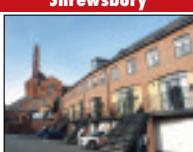


Wem

Eckford Park
Ground floor two bed apartment
Front garden ■ Rear patio ■ Garage
■ Close to amenities

£485 pcm

Wem



Shrewsbury

The Brewery
Three bed town house on 4 floors
Terrace garden ■ River views
Study ■ Storage area ■ Parking for 2 cars

£1,350 pcm

Shrewsbury



Baschurch

Alvaston Way
Detached family house
Four bedrooms
Integral garage ■ Secure garden

£795 pcm

Shrewsbury



Loppington

March House
Substantial six bedroom house
Swimming pool ■ Double garage
Land available by separate negotiation

£1,500 pcm

Shrewsbury



Shrewsbury

The Old Post House
Ground floor apartment
Two bedrooms
Allocated parking

£440 pcm

Bettom Strange



Shrewsbury

Briery Lane
One bedroom studio flat
Fitted kitchen/shower room
Allocated parking space

£295 pcm

Shrewsbury



Wem

Castle Court
First floor apartment
Two bedrooms
Quiet residential area

£395 pcm

Shrewsbury



Shrewsbury

Brougham Square
Two bedroom terrace
Storage shed
Parking space

£475 pcm

Shrewsbury



Baschurch

Falcons Way
Two separate rooms
Communal living room
Parking ■ Rent stated is for each

£395 pcm

Shrewsbury



Loppington

Northumberland Place
Ground floor flat
One bedroom
Small garden ■ Parking space

£440 pcm

Shrewsbury



Shrewsbury

Belton Strange Hall
Spacious first floor apartment
Two bedrooms
Parking ■ Communal gardens

£595 pcm

Church Stretton

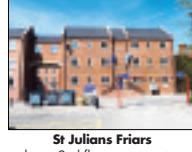


Shrewsbury

Woodcote Way
Three bedroom terrace house
Garden
Parking for two cars

£620 pcm

Hodnet



Wem

Tamarind House
Detached six bedroom family house
Three doubles & three singles
Gardens ■ Double garage

£1,200 pcm

Longden



Shrewsbury

St Michaels Gate
Three bedroom town house
Secure lawned back garden
Garage ■ Two parking spaces

£625 pcm

Shrewsbury



Baschurch

The Parks
Three bedroom end of terrace house
Gravelled parking area
Garage ■ Small garden

£650 pcm

Shrewsbury



Loppington

Murivance
Town centre house
Flexible accommodation
Three beds ■ Parking

£850 pcm

Shrewsbury



Shrewsbury

Plash
Executive barn conversion
Three double bedrooms
Two open plan garages

£1,200 pcm

Church Stretton



Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury Street
Four bed farmhouse
Three reception rooms
Gardens ■ Parking

£950 pcm

Hodnet



Wem

Shrewsbury
Detached six bedroom family house
Three doubles & three singles
Gardens ■ Double garage

£1,200 pcm

Longden



Shrewsbury

St Michaels Gate
Three bedroom town house
Secure lawned back garden
Garage ■ Two parking spaces

£625 pcm

Shrewsbury

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

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Seven-bedroom residence has range of outbuildings

HOUSE hunters seeking an impressive and individual village property of character within easy reach of Shrewsbury are being advised to check out The White House, Church Road, Baschurch.

On offer with Shrewsbury agents Halls for £395,000, the house has seven bedrooms and adaptable accommodation arranged on three floors.

The ground floor has a portico entrance, reception hall, sitting room with a log burner, living room, dining and breakfast room with distinctive oak panelled walls, beamed

ceiling and corner stone fireplace, kitchen, pantry, study, rear hall, large cellar, rear porch and an old wash house and larder.

The first floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom and the second floor a further four bedrooms and a box room. Four of the bedrooms have either built-in wardrobes or cupboards.

From the study an old door conceals a recently walled up access to a former butcher's shop, which has stable doors opening onto a courtyard and a trade access that opens on to Church Road.

The shop, which is currently let, has a storeroom above and there is also an external store.

Planning

A range of outbuildings, including garaging and workshop premises, may appeal to a variety of purchasers looking for alternative uses, subject to planning consent.

The gardens are laid to lawn for easy maintenance and there is also a brick-built coal house and adjoining store with a separate outside wc.

The original front entrance provides two matching vehicular gates onto a sweeping half circular gravelled driveway.

Viewing is by appointment with the Shrewsbury office of **HALLS** in Barker Street and can be arranged by calling 01743 236444.



Two outstanding developments in two outstanding locations

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HOLIDAY

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Superb 5 bedoomed family home £549,950

Orchard House, Chatsworth Gardens, North Hermitage, Shrewsbury SY3 7JW

This home is set within the heart of the popular Belle Vue conservation area, a convenient walking distance from Shrewsbury Town Centre.

Telephone:
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or
07896 868603

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

16th century cottage offers far-reaching country views

A DETACHED country cottage dating back in part to the 1570s is on the market with Town & Country.

Tyddyn, Gullsfield, overlooks open countryside and has comfortable accommodation comprising a rear hall, cloakroom, dining room with Efel stove in a stone fireplace, and a lounge/sitting room fitted with a brick fireplace and quarry tiled hearth which houses a cast iron log burner. Stairs rise from the lounge to the first floor.

The kitchen is fitted with base and wall units, tiled flooring, a Hotpoint electric oven, gas hob and extractor fan, part tiled walls, and a radiator.

Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom fitted with a three-piece suite with separate shower.

At the front of the property is a driveway to the garage, shrub beds and path to the side garden. The rear gardens are lawned and shrubbed with a greenhouse, garden shed and vegetable gardens, and are enclosed by hedging and fencing. There is also a workshop at the rear of the property.

The garage has an up and over door, power and light, and windows to the rear and side.

All local amenities are available close by in the village of Gullsfield which is just a mile away, with Welshpool three miles away, Oswestry fifteen miles and Shrewsbury 26 miles away. The property benefits from oil-fired central heating and double glazing.

Tyddyn is on the market for £220,000. For more details or to arrange a viewing, contact selling agents **TOWN & COUNTRY** on 01691 679631.



Tyddyn, Gullsfield

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

MONKS

RESIDENTIAL SALES


WISLA, MARCHAMLEY

- A delightful four bedroom detached bungalow improved to a high standard
- Impressive lounge, dining room, fabulous family kitchen, utility
- Master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom
- Double garage, ample parking, well maintained gardens

£325,000

Wem 01939 234368


**56 FOTHERGILL WAY,
WEM**

An excellent opportunity to purchase this beautifully presented, detached family house. Formerly the show home, the property is greatly enhanced with a number of additional features.

- Lovely through lounge & conservatory
- Separate dining room & sitting room
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen & utility
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Guest bedroom with ensuite
- Two further double bedrooms
- Bathroom, gardens, double garage

£285,000 Wem 01939 234368


THE MEADOWS, WHIXALL

- Modern detached house in enviable location
- Excellent through lounge, separate dining room & study
- Fabulous family dining kitchen & utility room
- Master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom
- Double garage, driveway, rear garden. Viewing is essential

£295,000

Wem 01939 234368


1 PHEASANT CLOSE, PREES

- Attractively presented, much improved detached house
- Lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen & utility
- Master bedroom with ensuite, three further bedrooms, bathroom
- Garage, parking, rear garden, village location

£225,000

Wem 01939 234368


**TREGWYNT, SOUTON RD,
WEM**

- Spacious detached bungalow
- Large plot, scope for improvement
- Lounge, lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, utility, cloakroom
- Three bedrooms, bathroom
- Garage, parking, mature gardens
- No chain, viewing is recommended

£249,500

Wem 01939 234368


2 GUTTERY CLOSE, WEM

- Modern detached house
- Lounge, dining room
- Breakfast kitchen, utility
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Three further bedrooms
- Bathroom, garage, gardens

£219,950

Wem 01939 234368


8 HIGH STREET, WEM

- Period town house with shop frontage
- Dining room with inglenook fireplace
- Refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Utility, cloakroom, cellar
- Lounge, four double bedrooms
- Bathroom & en-suite
- Private walled garden, no chain

£197,500

Wem 01939 234368


44 MILL STREET, PREES

- Detached house in village location
- Lounge, dining room, sitting room
- Ground floor bedroom and bathroom
- Large kitchen, utility room
- Three first floor bedrooms & bathroom
- Parking, enclosed rear garden
- No upward chain

£175,000

Wem 01939 234368


**37 MILLBROOK DRIVE,
SHAWBURY**

- Immaculate modern detached house
- Lounge, kitchen/dining room
- Conservatory
- Three bedrooms, bathroom
- Garage, garden
- Views to rear over open fields
- Viewing recommended

£175,000

Wem 01939 234368


23 STATION ROAD, WEM

- Superb family accommodation
- Two reception rooms
- Excellent conservatory
- Well fitted family kitchen
- Four bedrooms, bath/shower room
- Garage and lovely garden
- Viewing truly essential

£169,950

Wem 01939 234368


42b NOBLE STREET, WEM

- Charming period cottage
- Wealth of charm & character
- Lounge with inglenook fireplace
- Dining room, kitchen & utility
- Three bedrooms, bathroom
- Excellent mature rear gardens
- Internal inspection is essential

£169,950

Wem 01939 234368


12 BUTLER ROAD, WEM

- Modern detached bungalow
- Spacious lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen, conservatory
- Two double bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Ample parking, garage, gardens
- Viewing recommended, no chain

£159,950

Wem 01939 234368


6 FOXLEIGH DRIVE, WEM

- Detached bungalow
- Popular location
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen, conservatory
- Two bedrooms, bathroom
- Garage, mature garden
- Viewing recommended

£149,950

Wem 01939 234368


10 BARNFIELD AVENUE, WEM

- Modern detached bungalow
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- Two bedrooms, bathroom
- Garage, parking, rear garden
- Popular location, no upward chain

£148,950

Wem 01939 234368


58 SOMERSET WAY, WEM

- Semi-detached bungalow
- Spacious lounge/dining room
- Kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom
- Driveway, mature rear garden
- Pleasant outlooks, no upward chain
- Viewing highly recommended

£139,995

Wem 01939 234368


15 HARRIS CROFT, WEM

- Well presented terraced house
- Double glazing, GCH
- Lounge, kitchen/breakfast room
- Two bedrooms, bathroom
- Rear garden, garage, parking
- No upward chain

£139,950

Wem 01939 234368


72 SOMERSET WAY, WEM

- Semi-detached bungalow
- Spacious lounge/dining room, kitchen
- Two bedrooms, bathroom
- Rear garden, garage, parking
- Viewing recommended

£135,000

Wem 01939 234368


28 MILL STREET, WEM

- Mature three bedroom town house
- Close to town centre
- Open plan lounge/dining room
- Kitchen with utility store
- Three double bedrooms
- Bathroom, rear courtyard

£129,995

Wem 01939 234368


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£109,000

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24 CASTLE COURT, WEM

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- Lounge, kitchen
- Two bedrooms, bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden
- Ideal for FTB or investor

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109 HIGH STREET, WEM

- Spacious ground floor apartment
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- Kitchen/breakfast room
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- No upward chain

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Mature semi tucked away close to open countryside



Mount Pleasant, Chirk Bank

THIS attractive semi-detached period house stands at the bottom of a quiet lane in the popular village of Chirk Bank.

The property at Mount has been well maintained by its present owner to provide a very comfortable family home, and is for sale with no upward chain.

Accommodation comprises a sun room, kitchen/diner with integral Whirlpool washing machine, lounge and hallway with a storage cupboard.

Stairs lead off the lounge to the landing, which has doors to the three bedrooms and bathroom, which has a Triton shower over bath and storage heater.

Outside, the property is located down a quiet country lane which leads onto open countryside with great walks.

The attractive front garden has a parking area with steps and gate up to lawned and shrubbed gardens with a brick outhouse and path leading to the front door, all enclosed by fencing.

There are cottage style gardens at the rear of the property enjoying views over the surrounding countryside. There are also flowerbeds, and a path leading down to the side of the property and to a gate at the front.

The property is on the market with no chain for £175,000. Call **TOWN & COUNTRY** on 01691 679631 for further details.



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- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Conservatory, 4 Bedrooms

Region £215,000

Shrewsbury

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St Mary's Street

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Shrewsbury

NEWS**Housing plan may include school**

WEST FELTON could get a new school if developers' plans to build houses on it come to fruition.

Trustees of Tedsmore Estate own land in the village, near Oswestry, and are in the early stages of planning to build houses on it.

As part of the development, the trustees are willing to build a school or create an open space for villagers.

Charted Surveyor Balfoors, which is acting on behalf of the trustees, is starting to talk to villagers to see what they would like.

"We have confirmed to the council the land is available for development," said Rory Galliers, a partner at Balfoors.

"We are aware that the school is over-subscribed and on a dangerous road with limited car parking so there are quite a few suggestions that a site for a new school would be helpful."

"We are trying to incorporate that into the design."

He added: "We are also staying at a proportion of affordable housing."

Special parade for air cadets

WELSHPOOL AIR Cadets will be celebrating the group's 50th anniversary this year by holding a parade through the streets of the town on May 22.

A service will also take place at St Mary's Church in Welshpool followed by a reunion at the Corn Exchange afterwards.

Timeless fashion an inspiration for Chris

Lifting lid on stylish dressing

IT'S A BLISTERING hot day. People gather on cosy sofas in a cool gallery to chat over coffee while others concentrate as they tap away on their laptops.

And in the middle of it all I meet an enthusiastic Chris Hill finding the most suitable place to show off a tailor's dummy dressed in a gorgeous little white dress accessorised with red and blue.

"Fit for a royal wedding I would say," announces Chris as she greets me with a wide and welcoming smile and leads me to a cute little attic space filled with the most stunning pieces of fashion I have seen in a long time.

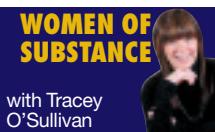
In fact, I've no doubt a certain royal bride wouldn't mind an hour or two browsing in Timeless – an outlet for vintage clothing at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry.

And its owner Chris Hill would no doubt like to get her hands on a few pieces seen on Kate Middleton,

such as her love of classic design

and beautiful things. And she has

found the perfect home for her venture because the Willow Gallery is all of the above – an addition to Oswestry which should be celebrated in all its glory.



And I love spending time just helping women to feel confident because they feel good."

And a quick browse of the fashions on show proves Chris has a point with some of the more delightful pieces priced at as little as £12.

"I collect from all kinds of sources and I also act as a dress agency so people can bring their clothes to me for consideration to sell."

"I love looking for original and unique and individual clothing from the glamorous thirties, new look forties, fabulous fifties and elegant sixties."

Chris has also held a charity show for the Lingen Davies Cancer Relief Fund and believes that the retail sector in the town does have a duty to be an integral part of the community.

"Being here at Willow has really proved to me what a difference it makes to feel part of a community and I really appreciate what has been created here. It is a wonderful venue for people who want to feel a part of something and it celebrates so much that is local to us. I believe people are more keen to support the people working in their community and I thrive on that."

As for that royal wedding Chris believes it will create a positive mood.

"Anything that lifts people's spirits I applaud. And Kate Middleton does indeed dress very well. I think she will set trends for sometime to come. I will certainly be watching carefully to see what she chooses on the big day and to see how her style evolves. She certainly proves how much clothes can boost your confidence, and why not make the most of that?"



Chris Hill at Timeless in Oswestry

Tenants warned on being insured

HOUSE TENANTS in the Oswestry area have been warned to ensure they have property insurance before taking a bank holiday break or holding royal wedding parties.

A Shropshire lettings agency is reminding tenants to check they have appropriate insurance, as break-ins or accidental damage could leave a costly bill to replace not just possessions but also put right damage to the house itself.

"The glorious weather is leading to an increase in last minute breaks," said Rupert Williams, of Shropshire Lettings.

"Many more people will be staying at home and celebrating the Royal Wedding with friends and family."

"Empty houses over bank holidays are ideal targets for thieves and if your holiday is ruined by a break-in, or a party gets a bit too lively, a costly bill can follow."

"It's a requirement of most tenancies to have current legal cover – so make sure yours is up to date or you could be facing a large bill if things go wrong."

Date set for annual talks

THE FRIENDS of the Montgomery Canal will be holding their annual meeting on May 7 at 7.30pm in Llanymynech Village Hall.

Everyone interested in the future of the Montgomery Canal is welcome to attend. For further details contact Peter Richards on (01691) 831455.

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NEWS

Theatre's double fun as cinema on the bill



Gary Lockley, Wayne Young and Charlotte Conde begin rehearsals for Improbable Fiction



Charlie Samuels, Kath Evans and Gary Lockley in rehearsal for Improbable Fiction

by Alan Ayckbourn. "It's fantastic," Allison said. "We have two experiences on the stage at one time."

"The Atfield is working on live theatre, rehearsing and building our set, but with a swift rearrangement of the theatrical curtain and the arrival of Kinokulture and their travelling cinema, suddenly we have a top quality, intimate cinematic event in our auditorium."

Allison said cinema and the theatre were currently happening side-by-side at the Atfield, with the theatre group in the early stages of rehearsal for their farcical-comedy Improbable Fiction, which is stepping

up its cinema programme at the Atfield Theatre, in the centre of town.

Co-operation between these two groups began several months ago. Allison Heward, of the Atfield group, said: "Even after hosting many different types of theatrical event we hadn't realised just how versatile our theatre could be."

Allison said cinema and the theatre were currently happening side-by-side at the Atfield, with the theatre group in the early stages of rehearsal for their farcical-comedy Improbable Fiction,

Dates

- Improbable Fiction, May 16-21

- Black Swan, May 28

- True Grit, June 18

- Countdown To Zero, June 21

- Apocalypse Now, June 16

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NEWS

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Holiday camp for young footballers



A holiday camp was held at The Venue, near Oswestry, with professional football coaching in conjunction with TNS

Hospital wins praise in patient satisfaction poll

OSWESTRY'S ORTHOPAEDIC Hospital is one of the top in the country for patient satisfaction, according to a national in-patient survey.

It was the country's highest scorer in 14 categories in the 2010 survey.

And 99 per cent of patients at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District NHS Trust said they would recommend the hospital to others.

The trust's top scores nationally in the Care Quality Commission survey

were for a wide range of patient care. They included cleanliness, hospital food, and hand washing by doctors.

There were also top scores over communication – getting answers from doctors and explanations from anaesthetists and worries and discharge arrangements, as well as having top scores for explanations about medication and possible side effects.

Scores

Hospital chief executive Wendy Farrington Chadd said the 2010 survey was even better than the very high

scores from the previous year, demonstrating the trust continued to provide outstanding patient care.

She praised the continued efforts of staff. "This is a fantastic result for the hospital," she said.

"More than 96 per cent of patients rated their care as good, very good or excellent and 99 per cent would recommend us to friends and family."

"Our staff are working extremely hard to provide the highest quality of care and it is rewarding for us all to receive such positive feedback across wide range of areas surveyed."

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NEWS

Army shells are found at home

TWO ARMY shells dating back decades have been found by a Shropshire family while they were clearing out their house, police said today.

The two shells were handed over to officers at Oswestry Police Station last week by a member of the family and have since been deemed "safe" by explosive experts.

Inspector Jane Fitzpatrick, of West Mercia Police, said they posed no danger to the public whatsoever.

She said: "A member of the public handed the shells to officers in Oswestry yesterday and we contacted the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team straight away."

"They assessed the shells and said they were completely safe and there was nothing to worry about.

Decades

"They are army ordnance shells and have been with the family for a very long time, I would say at least two decades."

She said: "The family had been having a clear-out at their home came across the shells and very kindly brought them in."

"We deal with these types of things a lot but it's not very often that we have shells brought into our station we normally go out and get them."

"But the family did right and we dealt with the issue straight away."

Services to raise cash in challenge

SHROPSHIRE'S police, Army and fire service staff expect to raise thousands of pounds for charity in a sporting challenge.

The annual Mercian Macaw endurance challenge is being staged over the weekend of May 13 to 15.

Teams from the three services will compete in a 25-kilometre orienteering walk in north Shropshire, a canoe race from the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy to Frankwell Quay in Shrewsbury and a 20-kilometre cycle ride from Nesscliffe Army Camp.

The police will be defending the trophy after coming out on top in all three events last year. A combined total of £6,000 was raised in 2010. Proceeds this year will again go to the West Mercia Police Community Fund, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Firefighters Charity.

Challenge organiser Sergeant Richard Jones said they aimed to build stronger ties between the Army and Shropshire's emergency services.

Money in sights for hospice



From left, head keeper Steve Stringer, Hannah Penney, from Hope House, and David Pooler, regional chairman for the National Gamekeepers' Association.

HOPE HOUSE is on target to bank £500 thanks to a clay pigeon shoot at Chirk Castle.

Almost £3,000 was raised by gamekeepers and people who had travelled from as far as Denmark and Scotland to support the clay pigeon "Flush4Fun" shoot at Myddelton

Estate. It was organised by the National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO) and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation with the balance going to the Gamekeepers' Welfare Trust. David Pooler, the NGO's North Wales chairman, said: "There was an excellent turnout."

Bid to change hours to boost club's demand

AN OSWESTRY members' club which has been running for almost half a century could open for longer hours to help boost demand, according to officials.

Customers at Oswestry Combined Ex-Servicemen's Club, in Bailey Street, have called for the venue to open its doors on Saturday afternoons, which it is hoped could help attract new members.

The club has been going since 1962 and has 110 members. A new committee has recently been formed to help promote the club.

It currently opens on Monday to Friday from 3pm until 1am and the hours on Saturdays and Sundays are 6pm until 12am. Club spokeswoman Kelly Clarke said: "Members would like to see us open on Saturday afternoons and we believe this will hopefully generate new members."

"The club is a very relaxed place to be and is jam-packed full of traditional club games and fun."

"Children are welcome and the staff are like one big friendly family."

"Becoming a member means they can have full use of all our facilities and they will be helping to keep us going for another 50 years."

The club offers a range of facilities including three full size snooker tables, one pool table, two dartboards, a skittle alley and a large function room.

People do not have to be ex-servicemen or live in the town to become a member. Mrs Clarke said: "That memory will always live on at the club but all new members are welcome now."

Bill Benyon, Shropshire councillor, said: "I can't see any problem with it opening longer, providing the place runs according to the licences."

For more information about the club call (01691) 654103 or visit the venue at 33a Bailey Street, Oswestry.

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NEWS

Plans for site to be discussed at meeting

PROPOSALS FOR the development of the Motte & Bailey site near Welshpool's Victoria Bowling Club will be discussed at a public meeting.

The Severn Valley Built Heritage Fund is looking to enhance the site as part of a regeneration programme and wants to know what the public thinks.

The future of the site, which is a scheduled ancient monument, will be just one of the items up for discussion at the open meeting at Welshpool Town Hall on May 11 at 1pm.

"The fund has been set up to provide money to upgrade the appearance of buildings in the Severn Valley," said John Evans, communications manager for Powys County Council.

"The main objective is to improve the external fabric of business and commercial properties of heritage interest within the designated scheme boundary."

"The purpose of the session is to help to improve the knowledge, understanding of the grant scheme."

Police tackle metal thefts

Police hold surgeries for residents

AS PART OF its commitment to community engagement Welshpool police neighbourhood management team is holding another series of surgeries.

"The surgeries will enable attendees to have the opportunity to decide the next set of priorities," said a spokesman.

"If members of the local community would like to get involved, or raise an issue that concerns them, please call the Welshpool Neighbourhood Management Team on 101."

The next meeting dates are: Welshpool Rural: Tuesday, May 10; Gwilsfield: 10-11am, Forden: 2.45-3.45pm.

POLICE HAVE launched a crackdown on metal thefts in the Oswestry area with a warning to scrap merchants.

Scrap merchants have been told to check their "houses are in order" as police threaten a series of spot-checks for stolen metal in Operation Livewire.

"Although the vast majority of scrap dealers run a legitimate business, metal thieves are managing to sell on their ill-gotten gains and police will be carrying out a series of spot checks on yards throughout the county," said a spokesman.

Police aim to give thieves nowhere to go with their stolen metal by working closely with the Environment Agency, which is responsible for ensuring both those collecting scrap and those buying it have the correct licences and insurance.

Misery

Detective Chief Inspector Alan Edwards said both the police and law-abiding citizens in Shropshire had "had enough" of the misery people stealing metals such as lead and copper were causing.

"Enough is enough and we are not prepared to tolerate those people nicking lead off roofs or copper from heating systems, stopping our children going to school or congregations attending church because of leaks and other damage," he said.

"These people are selling the stuff on somewhere so in addition to stopping any vehicle we see carrying scrap to make sure it has the correct licence and insurance, we will be making regular spot checks at scrap metal merchants across the county."

"The vast majority of these businesses are well run and honest but the metal is being sold somewhere and it is those people we want to weed out."

Cooking up a date for charity



Syed Luthur promoting the dinner celebrating Simla's 35 years presence in the town. A COUPLE who introduced Bangladeshi cuisine to Oswestry are celebrating 35 years in the town by holding a four-course charity dinner.

George and Julie Miah, of the Simla Restaurant, in Beatrice Street, hope to raise money for Oswestry's Hope House and The Heart Foundation at their anniversary cele-

Marketing roadshow will make town stop

TOURISM BUSINESSES in the Welshpool area are being invited to learn more about the importance of public relations and marketing when a roadshow visits Aberystwyth on May 10.

The roadshow is being organised jointly by Visit Wales and Tourism Partnership Mid Wales (TPMW) in Aberystwyth Art Centre, where their newly appointed PR and travel trade agencies will be available to answer questions.

Keynote speaker will be Simon Calder, senior travel editor for The Independent, and a frequent guest on BBC Breakfast News, ITV News and Sky News.

"It's a great opportunity for tourism businesses to come and find out more about the importance of PR, how to work with the travel trade sector and how we need their help to secure media coverage for Wales," said Dee Reynolds, TPMW's regional strategy director.

To attend the roadshow e-mail rhiann.watt@tpmw.co.uk at TPMW by May 4.



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A COUPLE who introduced Bangladeshi cuisine to Oswestry are celebrating 35 years in the town by holding a four-course charity dinner.

Our suppliers have been very supportive and lots of prizes have been donated for a raffle," said George.

Bookings for the evening, which includes live entertainment, should be made on (01691) 659880 or 653818 at £25 per head.

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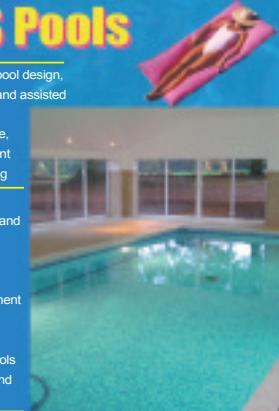
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THE ARTS

Play wins contest

GUILSFIELD AMATEUR Dramatic Society's presentation of John Godber's Lucky Sods won Montgomeryshire Drama Association Festival's competition for one-act plays.

Claire Williams, who was playing Jean Sod, also won the trophy for best individual performance.

The recent production in Gilsfield of the full play went so well that producer Sarah Saunders entered the first act in the local drama festival.

The performance was well received by the adjudicator, beating other entries from Gilsfield, Llanymynech and Berriew.

They now hope to take Lucky Sods to the All-Wales final at Theatre Clwyd.



The cast and producer celebrating in The Kings Head

Garden-full of gigs is lined up for weekend

A GARDEN-FULL of gigs has been lined up for April's second bank holiday weekend in Oswestry.

Revellers looking for a musical fix are invited to a live acoustic festival in the town's The Golden Lion pub, in Upper Church Street.

It will be the first of a number of musical events planned for the town and will have a number of artists from Oswestry and beyond taking part.

The event, organised by BlueRock UK, is for all ages and kicks off at 1pm on Saturday and runs until Sunday.

More information can be found on www.bluerockuk.webs.com

But if you are looking for some entertainment before that then head

**GIG
GUIDE**
with Chrissy Symmonds

On Saturday Whittington Castle will be starting its three-day event for visitors which will include a siege engine, battle displays, archery, hog roast, crafts, refreshments and gifts. It runs every day from 10am until 4pm.

Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre, in Church Street, will be starting a new exhibition on Wednesday displaying work by Louise Diggle. It is free entry between 9.30am and 5pm.

And if you wanted to learn more about the history of Powys' castle's world famous garden and how it's kept then pop along to Welshpool on Wednesday at 11.30am.

Do you have an event being held in Oswestry or Welshpool? Let me know by e-mailing csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk

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Top advice shared with professionals

by Thom Kennedy

MORE THAN 80 professionals from the HR industry and beyond received valuable advice and guidance on employment law and pension changes.

The Employment Law and Pensions Seminars, held in Oswestry as well as Shifnal, Shrewsbury and Hereford, gave attendees the chance to hear guidance from Ian Hill, pensions technical manager from Torquil Clark, in respect of the forthcoming compulsory requirement for employers to contribute to employee pensions.

In addition, John Merry, partner and head of the employment law department at Lanyon Bowdler focused on the employment law aspects of pension changes, such as managing salary reviews to achieve economies to off-set pension costs, and also the impact of pensions on maternity and paternity rights.

Designed

The seminars, organised by local law firm Lanyon Bowdler, in association with Wolverhampton-based financial advisors Torquil Clark, were designed to give guidance on the forthcoming compulsory pensions and employment law changes, and highlight the importance of employers being prepared and aware of the implications the changes will have.

New dates have now been scheduled for September to round up on the latest employment law developments, while giving guidance on the new Bribery Act 2011.

Oswestry's seminar will be held at the Lion Quays Hotel on September 13, beginning at 9am and lasting until noon.

To book a place on one of the forthcoming seminars contact Rachel Donaghey on 01952 224047 or e-mail rachel.donaghey@lblaw.co.uk

Sarah joins team



Sarah Tatum, 28, has been appointed sales support manager

WELSHPOOL SUSTAINABLE
energy company Organic Energy has expanded its team by appointing Sarah Tatum as sales support manager.

The 28-year-old former Shrewsbury High School student will help meet the increasing demand for the company's renewable heating solutions.

Sarah, who lives in Oswestry, gained a first class degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Sheffield and is currently studying for an MSc in Renewable Energy in Engineering.

She will have specific responsibility for assisting with consumer and corporate sales, providing technical expertise and assisting with the company's marketing strategy.

Organic Energy supplies fully automatic wood pellet heating and solar thermal hot water systems to home owners and businesses throughout the UK. The company was set up by current managing director Andy Boroughs ten years ago.

Mr Boroughs said: 'We are thrilled to have someone of Sarah's calibre on board.'

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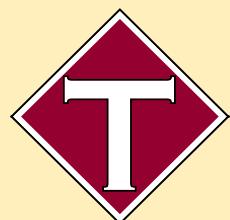
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FEATURES

Sugar diabetes on the rise...so know the signs

PETWATCHwith
Martin Hall

DIABETES mellitus, or sugar diabetes, affects both dogs and cats very commonly.

In fact the condition has been on the rise lately, with even higher numbers of pets presenting with the classic signs of increased thirst, increased appetite and weight loss. Diagnosis is usually straightforward enough with the aid of blood and urine samples, and for dogs, at least, it is usual for them to require insulin therapy. In opposition of cats, however, will improve with dietary manipulation alone.

For dogs on insulin, our aim is to keep the blood sugar levels within or close to the normal range for as big a proportion of the day as possible. This is achieved to some extent by carefully calculating insulin doses administered by injection at home.

Once stabilised, many diabetic patients will continue in a happy state of eating and drinking normally and regaining lost weight. And most owners, perhaps a little wary at first of the need to administer injections themselves, get into a routine where the treatment of their pet becomes second nature.

So it is highly frustrating when previously controlled diabetes suddenly become uncontrolled. If this happens, owners will tend to notice an increase in thirst once again, and their pet becoming gradually more listless. This is in contrast to the more sudden scenario if blood sugar levels fall too low, the so-called hypo attack. In such cases patients' insulin doses have become unexpectedly excessive. Dogs suffering a hypo become listless, even comatose, but respond quickly to eating something sugary.

If you own a diabetic animal it is crucially important to have it checked regularly by your vet or practice nurse, to make sure good control is maintained.

• Martin Hall is a partner at Copthorne Vets in Shrewsbury.

WHEN one is bamboozled as to the identity of a new creature it is a rare thing to return home, flick through a guide and alight on a match. However, it does occasionally happen and when it does, it ain't half satisfying!

I must admit to the following being an out-of-county experience, but fear not, the animal in question is to be found in Shropshire too.

I was out walking with family up North last week when a most peculiar sound reached us from the tall grasses – a continuous and rapid clicking which was very difficult to pinpoint.

We marched into the grass and watched as a tiny creature hopped up and ran over the next clump before beginning its call again.

I almost called it a mouse, but stopped myself just in

ON THE WILD SIDE
with
Ben Waddams

time. It was a small, slightly elongated brown bird and before I could take another step, it was gone.

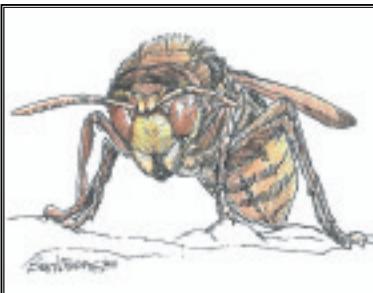
Eliminating everything but "small brown birds" from a British bird book, does not narrow things down greatly, but eventually I reached the perfect description: "...is most often heard at dawn and likes tall grasses to call from. Its call is sometimes disorientating and can be likened to a cross between a grasshopper and a mechanical clicking. It will usually hop around on or near to the ground and moves in a mouse-like fashion..."

I had it – the named

Grasshopper Warbler, fresh from the continent to spend a summer with us.

For many, myself included, that would have been enough of a wildlife-identity-crisis for one week, but yesterday I was called up by James Atkins and his wife to identify and hopefully rid them of, a giant wasp from their house on Town Walls.

Not really knowing what to expect I turned up and was greeted with a furious hornet, trapped behind a double pane of glass. The only way to save the insect from a sun-baked death was to try and "induce" it from between the panes, with a piece of wire. Poking a hor-



European hornet study by Ben Waddams

net is not recommended, but we eventually transferred the creature into a glass and subsequently into the freedom of the back garden.

I consequently found it to be a European Hornet, yet another summer visitor to our county.

Making my exit I was

Chemist rota

CHEMISTS OPEN outside usual hours in Oswestry this week are:
Willow Street Pharmacy, 6 Willow Street, Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm (Thursday 5pm), Saturday 9am to 1pm, Sunday: Closed.

Church Street Pharmacy, 23 Church Street, Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm, Saturday 9am to 12pm, Sunday: Closed.

Boots The Chemist, 5-7 Church Street, Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm.

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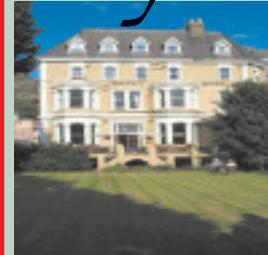
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NEWS**Survey for farmers on cheque proposals**

FARMERS IN the Oswestry and Welshpool areas concerned about the phasing out of cheques are being urged to complete a survey.

In light of the continuing public concern about how to phase out the method of cheque payment by 2016, NFU Cymru is urging its members to fill in its online banking inquiry survey.

The survey, available at www.nfu-cymru.org.uk, has been compiled following the announcement that the Treasury Select Committee is to reopen its inquiry on the future of cheques.

The news comes at a critical time, as the removal of the guarantee element of the cheque is due in two months' time. NFU Cymru President, Ed Bailey said: "A significant proportion of our members are concerned about the withdrawal of the cheque and alternatives have not yet become part of many farm businesses."

"The set-up and transaction costs for small businesses to implement 'chip and pin' often make it a very expensive option."



'High Street looking west, Llanfyllin.' The Eagle Hotel is towards the right of the picture



'D. Williams, Sun Temperance Hotel, Llanrhaidr (sic).' This probably dates from the early 20th century



'Glanrafon Hall, Llanyblodwel'. A postcard from about 100 years ago

THEY HAVE been dead for many years, but the two Lewis sisters have left a legacy which gives a glimpse of life in the Oswestry borderlands of about 100 years ago.

And thanks to Mrs Anne Hughes, of Llansantffraid, we can now take a peek into that past, by dipping into a clutch of old postcards which she kept for posterity when Mary Lewis died.

"She died 40 years ago. She was 80. She was from Llansantffraid and we lived next door to her. The one sister, Jennie, died, and then

NOSTALGIA
with Toby Neal

Mary was the last. I don't think they ever married. They probably had boyfriends during the First World War. There are some postcards in which 'Wilf' is mentioned," she said.

"Her cousin lived in Manchester and was in her 80s and was the only family about. When Mary died we helped her sort things out. When

she came over my husband helped her to take what she wanted to Manchester. Most of the stuff was burned on the back garden because she didn't want it."

With the postcards being of no interest to the cousin, Mrs Hughes looked after them, keeping them in a drawer, and now she has sent them in as she thinks they may be of wider interest.

"They tell a lot of stories, don't they?" she said.

Some of them are not franked and were never sent, although that is not surprising as many people collected them – and of course still do

today. One postcard, franked in 1960, shows Llanfyllin High Street.

The message on the back reads:

"Dear Mrs Socket, It's time you came home now. In case you had forgotten

Llanfyllin. Just to remind you. Hope

you are better. I feel much better. B. Owen."

Another of the postcards appears to be from Wilf to Jennie, the message reading simply: "Dear Jennie, I will come by the last train Saturday night. W." It was posted to "Miss Lewis, Pen-tre, Llansantffraid" – that's how some folk used to spell the name of the village. The postcard was franked on September 29, 1915.

Memories of 'great flood'

Our feature a couple of weeks ago about the "great flood" which hit Oswestry 30 years ago brought back memories for John Powell.

In the early hours of June 27, 1981, millions of gallons exploded through the town's street when a major water main burst.

John, from Oswestry, says: "My office was on the crossroads, Welsh Walls to Castle Street where it crosses Willow Street. That particular morning I was walking to work at about 7.30am and saw the aftermath of the flooding – stones and gravel on Willow Street as in your picture."

"It was puzzling and there was nobody about to ask. When I got to the office, I discovered that one room had been flooded. Fortunately, only the one room was affected and that only to about half an inch deep so it only soaked the carpet. The room was the filing room with 12 filing cabinets, so the clean up was a bit messy and time consuming."

"My insurance paid for new carpet except for a £25 excess. A bit 'tongue in cheek' I requested reimbursement of the £25 from North West Water Authority but they explained that they had no responsibility."

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Be My Man, Asa

Louder, Parade

Eyes Wide Shut, JLS

A SHORT WEEK at The Severn as we prepared for the Royal Wedding and another bank holiday weekend.

If you are holding a Royal Wedding celebration then please send your pictures and stories to the studio. Each day this week we gave away a set of four cup cakes courtesy of Queenie's Cupcakery in Ironbridge. The daily bouquet was back with Shelly's Florist in Wellington and the weekly celebration cake was awarded with the Cake Creators in Frankwell. Thank you to everybody who joined in with our St George's Day celebration in Telford Town Centre, it was a great day.

This week we have still been receiving donated Easter eggs for our Easter Egg Appeal, we had a brilliant response from our listeners and the children at Shropshire's hospitals were very excited when we delivered the eggs. We will make sure that the additional eggs are also distributed to the hospitals.

In local news, Arthritis Research UK is holding its annual Charity Golf Day at Oswestry Golf Club on Friday, May 13. It's a competition for men, ladies and mixed teams, with entry at £200 per team of four which includes the prize-giving dinner. There will be prizes for the best three teams, best ladies team, nearest the pin and longest drive. All profits go to Arthritis

Research UK. For more details call Ruth Owen on (01492) 518760.

June 25 is another date for your diary because a sponsored walk around the grounds of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is being organised by the Rheumatology Research Group who are based in the Arthritis Research Centre. All funds raised will go to the League of Friends who give considerable help to the research carried out at the hospital. If you'd like to take part call Dr Whittle or Dr Smith on (01691) 404139.

Remember, if you are a local group or are holding an event and would like myself or The Severn team to get involved, then drop me an e-mail with all the information and we'll try and give you a mention during the breakfast show and I will do my best to attend. E-mail me at neil.bentley@thesevern.co.uk. You can contact the studio by phone on (0333) 456 0777.

I must extend my thanks to Deborah Mitchell and the team at Heaven, Shifnal, who recently supplied me with male grooming products and hints and tips to help rejuvenate my skin. Basically they were saying I looked a bit rough around the edges but I will keep you updated with my progress.

The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, weekdays from 6am on 106.5, 107.1 and 107.4fm The Severn. Follow us on Twitter @thesevern or listen online at www.thesevern.co.uk

Charity trip for Mark

FORMER SOLDIER Mark Newton will be passing through Mid Wales and the Oswestry area next month on a 1,200 mile journey around the coastline and borders of Wales.

Mark, 45, of Loughor, near Swansea, badly injured a knee when serving with the United Nations in Cyprus. He has organised the marathon journey on his mobility scooter to raise money for The Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and 1st The Queens Dragoon Guards.

He begins his 46-day journey on May 1 and hopes to complete the circuit by June

21. Mark will be sticking as closely to the coast as he can, accessible paths permitting, and will be following the Offa's Dyke path for the border section.

Mark said: "I chose the three charities because two had already helped me and I wanted to say thank you for that. I decided on Help for Heroes as so many personnel are coming back from Afghanistan with injuries that are life changing."

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Honda lives up to expectations



DRIVE TIME

with Graham Breeze

A SNEAK preview of the soon-to-be-launched updated Honda Accord proved to be just what I had been expecting – impressive.

Honda has never had to work too hard convincing me about the Accord. The car was my choice as a company vehicle for five years and it is the corporate customer that is on the company's radar now.

Needing to boost the Accord's appeal without sacrificing quality and reliability the team has improved styling, comfort and running costs.

With rising fuel costs and CO2-based taxation, driving down the emissions and improving the fuel economy throughout the Accord range was a priority.

Honda engineers have implemented a host of underbody aerodynamic aids, including a larger front air dam, underfloor and a rear sub-frame cover.

Honda's refined 2.2 litre i-DTEC diesel received some extra attention with the reduction of internal frictional losses in the engine. This revision resulted in a 9 g/km drop in CO2 emissions for the 6-speed manual saloon on

test to 147 g/km. Comfort levels are high on the priority list for those drivers who spend time on the road, and damper conditions have been improved to suit the vast range of road conditions found in Europe.

The saloon has benefitted from small but noticeable changes to the headlights and bumpers. The headlights now feature a cleaner appearance with the previously amber indicators now in a clear finish.

On top grade cars the lights are now Bi-HID and feature active cornering lights to improve night time visibility. Honda is also offering 17-inch alloy wheels as a complimentary upgrade on ES and ES-GT models.

The rear of the saloon model has been enhanced with the reversing light and indicators now featuring the same red finish as the fog light to give balance to the car.

The updated look of the saloon is rounded off with a light chrome finish above the rear licence plate on most models and dark chrome on Type S grade cars.

These new exterior design cues are completed with the addition of three colours – Alabaster Silver, Graphite Lustre metallic and Celestial Blue Pearl.

The exterior styling changes have been complemented by a number of subtle changes to the interior to enhance the cabin. Upgrades include new dark silver interior panels and bright silver door handles and handbrake, while ES grades now benefit from a new seat material and door lining.

Another new lighting technology for Honda is the high beam support system, which is fit-



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ted on vehicles with the Bi-HID headlights.

This system is controlled by a camera fitted to the windscreen behind the rear view mirror.

The camera detects oncoming headlights or the

tallights of a vehicle in front and automatically dips the headlights.

With cleaner engines, a sharper look and a smoother drive the revised Accord will continue to provide a strong challenge in the competitive D-sector. All engines in the line up meet Euro 5 legislation, and its sector-leading package of safety systems rivals most E-sector cars.

The revised Accord with lower CO2 emissions and improved refinement will play an

important role in continuing to strengthen Honda's market position, particularly in the corporate sector.

The Accord's key customers will be conquest, corporate customers, such as head office senior managers, and customers from the D-sector mass market who are looking to upgrade.

Honda are targeting only low level sales. The plan for the UK is approximately 3,000 units per year, 77 per cent of which will be saloon models and 23 per cent tourer variants.

Nuts and bolts

Honda Accord 2.2iDTEC

Type S

Price: £21,695

Insurance Group: 29E

Engine: 2.2 litre i-DTEC

Transmission: Manual

CO2 Emissions: 147 g/km

Max Speed: 136 mph

0-62mph: 8.8 seconds

Fuel Consumption:

50.5 combined

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04 Nissan X-TRAIL Sve Dci <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONLY £7995	55 Hyundai Matrix Gsi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONLY £4995	06 56 Seat Altea Reference Sport <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONLY £6995	Subaru Impreza STI 4dr RB320 Special Edition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONLY £19995	60 Subaru Impreza 5dr Hatch 1.5 Rc <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ONLY £15,995

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MOTORING

Kia sets sights on small car market

IF YOU think that low CO₂-emitting small cars are the preserve of Volkswagen and other European car makers, it's time to think again.

Kia surprised industry watchers with the recent public debut of its new Rio supermini.

The previous Rio's profile was never that high, however this turnaround is proof that Kia really does mean business with its new Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall Corsa and Peugeot 207 rival.

As part of the Korean company's strategy to make a bigger impact in the European small car market, Kia's new Rio aims to emulate the best the West has to offer.

For many buyers this means one thing: affordability. With the Rio, Kia is boasting of a new low in terms of CO₂ emissions plus bolder looks and improved quality levels.

And with a headline-grabbing figure of 85g/km CO₂, rival motor makers are taking notice. Bucking the trend with low capacity petrol engines, this figure is achieved with a 1.1-litre diesel engine and an engine stop-start system.

Fuel economy also promises to be impressive, with figures as high as a claimed 88mpg.

Daren is driving ahead in his chosen career

by Graham Breeze

IT'S BEEN AN extraordinary start to Daren Moore's career with Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry.

He has had a big hand to play in the dealership's exceptional month of new car registrations.

Daren's performance has helped Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry not only achieve the manufacturer's target - but exceed it.

And a major factor has been sales of new - and Network Q - cars to old customers.

"Customers from the 14 years I spent in Shrewsbury have followed me to Arthurs and this has not only boosted my performance but that of the dealership as well."

Happy

"Customers have commented that they are pleased to see me continue my career with Vauxhall in Oswestry."

"They said they were happy to see I was at Arthurs and want to continue to deal with me, which is fantastic."

Daren, 40, who has spent 14 of his 16 years in the trade selling Vauxhall cars, didn't join Arthurs until February which gave him no lead-in time for the new registration plate.

"But I still managed to sell new cars in March and this trend has continued into April and hopefully will remain well into the future."

Daren, who lives in Baschurch, has earned a glowing compliment from Arthurs Vauxhall managing director Nigel Williams.

"Vauxhall is in his blood and he has really hit the ground running."

"We have enjoyed a record March and Daren has also exceeded expectations," said Nigel.



Daren Moore, from Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry

New era for MG as model is rolled out

A NEW MG CAR has rolled off the production line at the company's Longbridge plant signalling a new era of manufacturing for the brand.

This comes six years after thousands of jobs were shed when the West Midlands factory closed. Some of the factory's 400 workers gathered to watch the car as it emerged from production amid clouds of dry ice and bursts of confetti.

MG is now owned by Chinese car company SAIC and is describing the new vehicle as the first all-new MG for 16 years.

The first car off the line was a red MG6 and was driven by the plant's only female factory worker, Lisa Ponter.

Ponter, who was one of those who lost her job, said she did not hesitate to return when production at the site resumed.

The 1.8-litre MG6 will compete with the likes of the Volkswagen Golf and Ford Focus.

- A new entry level model leads Toyota's changes to its Auris range for the 2011 model year, delivering extra equipment at no extra cost to the customer. The three and five-door Auris Edition replaces the previous T2.

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Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr Squeeze, Bluetooth+USB	£14,432	£14,955	£523
Fiesta 1.4 3dr Avalon, Bluetooth+USB	£15,886	£19,995	£3,591
Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3dr Magenta, Bluetooth+USB, Alloys	£15,998	£12,495	£3,403
Fiesta 1.6 5dr Magenta, Bluetooth+USB	£16,605	£12,995	£3,590
Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3dr Squeeze, Bluetooth+USB	£15,792	£11,995	£3,797
Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr Magenta, Bluetooth+USB	£16,092	£12,495	£3,597
Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr Squeeze, Bluetooth+USB	£15,886	£12,495	£3,391
Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5dr Squeeze, Bluetooth+USB	£16,092	£12,495	£3,597
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2.0 D4D T3S
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MILEAGE



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STYLE
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CON, CD PLAYER,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
POWER STEERING,
ALLOYS IMMACULATE
CONDITION, STILL
UNDER
MANUFACTURERS
WARRANTY



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VAUXHALL ASTRA
1.9 CDTI SRI
55, SILVER, CLOTH
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DRIVER SUN-
GLASSES HOLDER,
AIRBAGS, E/W,
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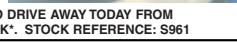
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FORD FOCUS 1.2
STYLE CLI
08, BLUE, 3 DOOR,
CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER
STEERING,
ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW
MILEAGE



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FORD FIESTA 1.2
STYLE CLI
08, BLUE, 3 DOOR,
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CON, POWER
STEERING,
ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW
MILEAGE



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VAUXHALL ASTRA
1.6 DESIGN
57, BLACK, 5
DOOR, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER
STEERING,
ELECTRIC
WINDOWS,
ALLOYS, HALF
LEATHER



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FORD FOCUS C
MAX 1.8
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WINDOWS, LOW
MILEAGE



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VAUXHALL TIGRA
1.4 CABRIOLET
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FORD FOCUS C
MAX 1.8
BLACK, 5 DOOR,
CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER
STEERING,
MANUAL,
ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW
MILEAGE



BUY THIS CAR, AND DRIVE AWAY TODAY FROM
ONLY £29 PER WEEK*. STOCK REFERENCE: S942

VAUXHALL ASTRA
1.4 SXI
10, SILVER, TWO
YEARS
MANUFACTURING
WARRANTY, 5 DR,
AIR CON, CD
PLAYER, P/S, E/W,
ALLOYS,
IMMACULATE
CONDITION, LOW
INSURANCE AND
EXCELLENT MPG



BUY THIS CAR, AND DRIVE AWAY TODAY FROM
ONLY £35 PER WEEK*. STOCK REFERENCE: S964

VAUXHALL CORSA
1.2 SXI
54, BLUE, 3 DOOR,
SXI, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER
STEERING,
ELECTRIC
WINDOWS,
ALLOYS, LOW
MILEAGE, LOW
INSURANCE,
EXCELLENT MPG



BUY THIS CAR, AND DRIVE AWAY TODAY FROM
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JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5
V6
03, 4 DOOR, AUTO,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
E/W, ALLOYS, DUAL
CLIMATE, CRUISE
CONTROL, REVERSE
PARK SENSORS,
IMMACULATE
CONDITION



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ALFA ROMEO 147
JTD COLLEZIONE
08, RED, DIESEL,
SPECIAL EDITION,
FULL LEATHER,
PANORAMIC
SUNROOF,
UPGRADE ALLOYS, 6
SPEED, FANTASTIC
MPG



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SPORT**FIXTURES**

Oswestry League
Tuesday, Division one:
Church A v Corvea A, Flexys A v Chirk AAA A, Llanrhedr A v Llangollen A, Overton A v Llanymynech A, Criftins A v Ceirgiedig Valley A, Whittington A v Johnstown A.

Division two: Chirk AAA B v Weston Rhyn A, Cynwyd A v Black Lion, George v Criffins B, Johnstown D v Johnstown C, Llanymynech A v Ye Olde Croftie A, Ruabon A v Church B.

Wednesday, Division three:
Flexys B v Whittington B, Llanrhedr B v Llanfyllin A, Overton B v Ceirgiedig Valley B, Royston A v Llanymynech B, Whittington C v Plas Kynaston A.

Thursday, Division four: Ceirgiedig Valley C v Church B, Corvea B v Royston B, Fox Lane v Whittington E, Johnstown D v Criftins C, Llanymynech C v Weston Rhyn B.

Thursday, Division five: Chirk AAA C v Weston Rhyn D, Cynwyd B v Ellesmere B, Llanymynech B v Plas Kynaston B, Llanrhedr D v Whittington D, Ye Olde Croftie B v Johnstown E.

Division six: Llanfyllin B v Overton D, Weston Rhyn E v Llanrhedr E, Whittington F v Ruabon B.

Shropshire Bowls
Premier League

Friday, Chidz Ercall v Chester Road, Ford v Bowring, Newport v Bala, Arford v Ironon, Wem USC v Georges, Meole Brace v Sir J Bayley, Castell Alun v Wrock Wood.

Wrexham League
division one

Saturday, Castell Alun v Ellesmere B, Ellesmere A v Culiffe B, Flexys v Bersham A, Gate HH A v Esclusham C, Gresford Colliery A v Coedpoeth, Parcianau A v Gate HH.

Wem & District League

Monday, division one: Ifton A v Meole Brace A, Ford A v POWBC A, Meole Brace C v Criftion A, Newport v Battlefield A, Hanwood A v Pontesbury A.

Division two: Bayston Hill v Bye 2, Corbet A v Corbet B, Bridgwater A v Wem BC A, E & C Showers v Reman Services A, Wem USC v Prince Hotel A, Telepost A v Oxon A.

Division three: Minsterley v Bricklayers B, Llanymynech v Ford B, Baschurch A v Ifton B, OSBC A v Ercall Magna, Unison B v Telepost B.

Division four: Binton B v Meole Brace B, POWBC B v Pontesbury B, Meole Brace D v Creston, Monkmoor v Dorrington, Battlefield B v Greenfields, Atcham v Whittington.

Division five: Wem BC B v Baschurch B, Pontesbury C v Hadley USC, SAHA v Bayston Hill B, Oxon B v Bagley, Reman Services v Hanwood B, Prince Hotel v Wem USC.

Tanners Claret
Shropshire League

Friday, Division one: George V Crescent, Hanwood v Ludlow Castle, Pontesbury v Burway, Prince Hotel v Castlefields, Reman v Ford, Wem B v Telepost.

Division two: Corbet Arms v Ercall & Cwmcarn, Graven Arms v Bricklayers, Onon v Bishop's Castle, POWBC v Church Club, Union v Wem USC, Whittington v Meole Brace.

Division three: Bagley v Bayston Hill, Bromfield v Severn-side St Julians, Greenfields Social v OSBC, Ifton v Binton, Weston Rhyn v Reman Services.

George looking up table

GEORGE HOST Crescent this week looking to continue their good form in the Tanners League.

The side beat Reman to record an important win earlier this month and will look to get another victory on home soil.

The side finds themselves at the wrong end of the table in the early stages of the season and will be anxious to pick up some points to avoid being dragged in to a relegation scrap.

Meanwhile in division two Whittington host Meole Brace fresh from a convincing home win over Bishop's Castle as they bid to extend their excellent early season form, while Church Club visit POWBC.

Church were disappointing 12-2 losers to Union in their last away fixture and will be anxious for an improved performance this time around.

Weston Rhyn host Reman Services in division three fresh from a 10-4 win over Bayston Hill.

Ifton are still hunting for their first win of the season and they are at home to Binton on Friday night.

Ifton face early season must-win clash**Furrows Premier League**

	P	W	GW	Agg	Pts
Chester Road	3	2	2	101	30
Flexys	3	2	25	88	30
Meole Brace	3	2	19	80	30
Castelfield	3	2	20	68	24
Wrock Wood	3	2	20	53	24
St Georges	3	2	19	30	23
Childs Ercall	3	1	18	72	22
Ifon	3	1	15	77	17
Ford	3	1	14	47	17
Bowring	3	1	15	59	17
Byler	3	1	13	54	15
Wem USC	3	1	13	54	15
Archibald Worth	3	0	13	114	13

IT MIGHT BE a bit early in the season for talk of must-win games but for Ifton skipper Steve Robinson that is exactly what Friday night's tricky Shropshire Premier League bowls match away at Archibald Worthington is.

Robinson's men have only played three matches but defeat at home to Newport last time out, coupled with another loss this week, could see Ifton slump to the bottom of the table - a situation Robinson is keen to avoid.

"It's a very important game for us," said Robinson.

"It's one we would like to get a few winners from because if we don't we could find ourselves bottom of the league."

"But they're no mugs at home. Last year we went there and they absolutely murdered us 11-3 with their best performance of the season, so hopefully they're not saving that for us again."

Ifton actually started the match with title contenders Newport in good shape - halving the opening four matches thanks to wins for Dave Jones and Darren Lacey.

Downhill

But it was all downhill from there as they could muster only two more wins thanks to Andrew Hughes and Craig Girfiths, who won the last tie 21-20.

Robinson added: "Collectively we didn't bowl well. We were in the game

after the first four but the wheels came off spectacularly after that."

"But we will put that to the back of our minds now and move on."

"I maintain that we have enough about us and enough quality not to be dragged into the fight at the bottom but obviously we have got to back that up on the green."

Ifton will be forced into at least one change for Friday's showdown with Andy Hughes, who has three wins from three outings this term, at a wedding.

"It's not the Royal one," added Robinson, "but we won't be available which is a blow although we will have Brian Hayes back. There will maybe a couple more changes but not many."

Ellesmere B edge home

ELLESMER E B GOT their first win of the season on home soil in the Wrexham League on Saturday.

The side edged a close encounter over visitors Parciau A 8-6 with an aggregate gap of just five.

It wasn't such good news for the A team who were beaten on their travels 10-4 by Bersham A - losing the aggregate by 45.

The A side host Cunliffe B this weekend looking to bounce back while the B team face Castell Alun.

PLACINGS**Applewood Wealth Management Ltd Oswestry League**

Division one: Church A 8 (144), Llanymynech A 2 (110), Flexys A 6 (155), Corvea A 5 (138), Ellesmere B 3 (111), Chirk AAA 7 (151), Overton A 3 (147), Criftins A 7 (156); Whittington A 9 (161), Ceirgiedig Valley A 10 (162), Llanrhedr A 11 (164), Llanfyllin A 12 (165), Weston Rhyn A 13 (164), Llanfyllin B 14 (166), Llanrhedr B 15 (167), Whittington B 16 (168), Llanrhedr C 17 (169), Llanyngog C 18 (170), Llanyngog D 19 (171), Johnstown B 3 (172); Ruabon B 20 (173), Llanrhedr E 21 (174), Cerrig Valley B 23 (175).

Division two: Ceirgiedig Valley C 6 (136), Weston Rhyn D 3 (126), Llanyngog B 8 (135), Llanrhedr D 4 (127), Ellesmere C 5 (128), Old Croftie B 7 (149), Plas Kynaston A 8 (140), Wem USC 9 (141), Llanrhedr E 10 (142), Cerrig Valley A 11 (143), Corwen A 12 (144), Llanyngog C 13 (145), Overton A 14 (146), Wem Albion A 15 (147), Llanrhedr F 16 (148), Cerrig Valley C 17 (149), Royston B 18 (149), Criftins A 19 (149), Llanrhedr G 20 (150).

Division three: Ellesmere A 19 (159), Overton D 1 (171), Llanrhedr E 2 (152), Johnstown F 4 (160); Llanrhedr E 3 (152), Church C 17 (147), Cerrig Valley C 18 (148), Corwen A 19 (149), Wem Albion B 20 (150), Llanrhedr F 21 (151), Llanrhedr G 22 (152), Wem Albion C 23 (153), Cerrig Valley D 24 (154), Cerrig Valley E 25 (155), Cerrig Valley F 26 (156), Cerrig Valley G 27 (157), Cerrig Valley H 28 (158), Cerrig Valley I 29 (159), Cerrig Valley J 30 (159), Cerrig Valley K 31 (159), Cerrig Valley L 32 (159), Cerrig Valley M 33 (159), Cerrig Valley N 34 (159), Cerrig Valley O 35 (159), Cerrig Valley P 36 (159), Cerrig Valley Q 37 (159), Cerrig Valley R 38 (159), Cerrig Valley S 39 (159), Cerrig Valley T 40 (159), Cerrig Valley U 41 (159), Cerrig Valley V 42 (159), Cerrig Valley W 43 (159), Cerrig Valley X 44 (159), Cerrig Valley Y 45 (159), Cerrig Valley Z 46 (159), Cerrig Valley AA 47 (159), Cerrig Valley BB 48 (159), Cerrig Valley CC 49 (159), Cerrig Valley DD 50 (159), Cerrig Valley EE 51 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Angel on the brink of title after victory

THE ANGEL A romped to a 9-1 win over Argae A in the Welshpool Pool League and now need just a point to clinch the title.

The Lion Westbury keep them honest with a hard earned 6-4 win away at the Cock Forden, and the Pheasant Nomads trounced the Oak B 10-0 to move in to third spot.

The Angel B meanwhile sit very comfortably in sixth after a 6-4 away win at Four Crosses A, and the Socialites eventually get their mojo working again, with a 6-4 home win need a point to retain their top flight status.

Cobras have already had two points from their game against Cook Brookton (6-4 played in advance) but can do themselves a big favour if they can win their last game.

In Division Two it's the teams at the bottom making the headlines.

Westwood Warriors kept their heads above water after winning the last three frames to draw at Champions Castle Boys, but Herbert Arms couldn't counter that despite taking 3/4 frames at the death to Horse & Jockey.

The Jockey Colts won 6-4 and will be hoping to finish third with a win at the Wizards.

The Breidden remain in the danger zone after losing to Talbot Topdogs 7-3, and the Punchbowl A completed their season with a fine 7-3 home win against Cock B Forden.

Meanwhile Pheasant B are champions of the third division after coming from 2-4 down against the Talbot Slayers to win 6-4.

Lawrence Evison took the winning frame in the tenth to secure the success.

All the very latest from around the golf clubs

LAKESIDE

Greensome pair championship: 1 Jim & Sandy Knight 63, 2 Brent Jones & Pete Philpott 64*, 3 Carl Haines & Mike Hollyhead 64*.

Seniors League: 1 Gary Kruger (26) 29pts, 2 Gorger Evans (21) 21, 3 Mike Pearce 21.

Gross league 1 David Anderson, 2 Joe Davies, 3 Glyn Jones, 4 Alan Williams.

MILNEYNECH

Men's April Stalbord Div 1: 1 Paul Prus 43pts, 2 Paul Dunn 42, 3 Huw Williams 42pts.

Div 2: 1 Mark Ayling 42pts, 2 Robert Pugh 41, 3 Shaun Marion 40.

Div 3: 1 Dave Evans 46pts, 2 Gareth Hopkins 45, 3 Michael Edwards 42.

MILLE END

Badges Team: 1 Captain 2/4 Vice Captain 4/4 Vice Captain (captain's team first): Adam Care & Jake Moreton lost to George Rover & Mike Eastwood 2/4 Vice Captain 4/4 Vice Captain 2/4: Mark Ayling 42pts, 2 Robert Pugh 41, 3 Shaun Marion 40.

Div 3: 1 Dave Evans 46pts, 2 Gareth Hopkins 45, 3 Michael Edwards 42.

WELSHPOOL

Ladies Team: 1 Captain 2/4 Vice Captain 4/4 Vice Captain (captain's team first): Adam Care & Jake Moreton lost to George Rover & Mike Eastwood 2/4 Vice Captain 4/4 Vice Captain 2/4: Mark Ayling 42pts, 2 Robert Pugh 41, 3 Shaun Marion 40.

Div 3: 1 Dave Evans 46pts, 2 Gareth Hopkins 45, 3 Michael Edwards 42.

OSWESTRY

Ladies Coronation Fourosomes: 1 Alice Seal & Anne Bayley 95-28, 2 Amanda Ord & Anne Bailey 34.

Men's Handicap League Match Result: Mile End 5½ Moles Brace ½.

Men's Friends Match Result: Lakeside 2½, Mile End ½.

Rogers Team Challenge: 1 John Seal, Richard Osborne, Angela Eke & Michael 94pts, 2 Andy & Alan Seal, Keith Morris 93, 3 Andrew Turner 92.

Ladies Coronation Fourosomes: 1 Alice Seal & Anne Bayley 95-28, 2 Amanda Ord & Anne Bailey 34.

Men's Handicap League Match Result: Mile End 5½ Moles Brace ½.

Men's Friends Match Result: Lakeside 2½, Mile End ½.

Rogers Team Challenge: 1 John Seal, Richard Osborne, Angela Eke & Michael 94pts, 2 Andy & Alan Seal, Keith Morris 93, 3 Andrew Turner 92.

WELSHPOOL

Ladies Hall of Fame 1 Graham Roberts 40pts, 2 Phil Jones 37, 3 Dave Head 37.

Wynnstay clinch shield in exciting end to season



Just champion – that's Harvey Kynaston, John Lewis, Bill Coxhead and Pete Scott of the Wynnstay



Beaten finalists – the Morda exiles side, from left, Andy Hardy, Brian Suckley and Alun Jones

THE OSWESTRY Table Tennis league knock out shield final between Morda Exiles and Wynnstay A Llansilin produced an exciting end to the season.

The match was played on two tables, and Pete Scott for Wynnstay opened up against Alun Jones, while Harvey Kynaston took on Brian Suckley from the Morda Exiles.

Suckley narrowly outpointed Harvey Kynaston 43-37 while in the other match Jones took the first two sets 11-6, 11-10, but Scott then produced some attacking play to take the third set 11-4, only for the forth to go to Jones 11-3 to leave Morda 13 points in front after two matches.

Wynnstay's John Lewis then had a narrow win over Andy Hardy 43-38 before Suckley outpointed Scott 40-25. On the other table Kynaston fought back from 7-2 down, to defeat Jones 11-8 on his way to a 39-32 win.

Jones picked up points over Lewis (44-26) but in the other final games Kynaston, Scott & Lewis all remained in control meaning Morda were ahead 341-288 prior to the handicap.

The sealed envelope revealed a handicap to Wynnstay of 84 points, giving them a well deserved 372-341 victory.

A special preview of the new cricket campaign featuring ALL the local sides

Oswestry sides place faith in youth ahead of curtain-raiser

Season promises to be a cracker



Oswestry's Mike Robinson

OSWESTRY III'S AND IV'S begin their FBC Manby Bowdler season this weekend hoping to unearth the next generation of talent.

The two sides who play in division four and seven respectively, are considered a breeding ground for talented youngsters to make progress towards the first team.

And club chairman Mike Robinson wants to see the foundations the club has laid down built upon in years to come.

He said: "Of the 24 players we used in the first team last year 21 of them had come through our youth system and the thirds and fourths are an important part of that."

"We want to see the youngsters enjoy their first taste of adult senior cricket and both sides play a huge part in that development."

"We have a few experienced heads in there as well but we see the sides very much a breeding ground."

That isn't to say that the two sides have already thrown in the towel on the 2011 campaign but Robinson admits it will be a season of consolidation for both.

He added: "The thirds got relegated last time and I'm hoping they have now found their level in division four. I think they would be happy with a season of consolidation."

"It is the same for the fours in division seven as well."

Youngsters

"They struggled last year but again I think they will take a mid-table finish."

"We have been very successful in bringing players through over the years and we have a huge number of youngsters who come and play at the club."

"Obviously we go into the games looking to win but that isn't the be all and end all at that level."

The third team, who will be led by new skipper Paul Baker get their campaign underway with a trip to Hodnet on Saturday while the fourths, captained by Rob Clarke, have a derby day home clash with Whittington IIIs.

And it will be a chance for the youngsters to play on the first team's Morda Road pitch with the leading two Oswestry sides not getting their campaigns underway until next weekend.

Both sides will usually play their home games at Oswestry School.

Improve

Broadbent has yet to bring in any new players but believes the current crop is talented enough to improve on the 2010 showing.

"I think we have a stronger pool of players to pick from this time around and it is something that should help us."

Improve

Broadbent is also looking for our strike bowler Dave Morris to begin to contribute with the bat a bit more in the lower order.

"His batting has really come on and hopefully he can provide us with some runs in the middle order."

"We also have Nick Morris who lives in Stafford who will be playing for us this year. He is an Oswestry lad who came to us at the end of last season and made a very good impression and was as responsible as anyone for helping us to stay up."

"Traditionally it has been

the club is also in desperate need of a first team umpire, and will welcome players for both sides or the club ladies team."

Anyone interested can contact Broadbent on 07960 269520 or Vaughan on 07974 757808.

Huxley in runs but not squad



Oswestry batsman Alex Huxley warmed up for the new season with an outing in a Shropshire training fixture. Two county sides faced off against each other at Wellington on Easter Sunday with Huxley making 20 in his side's six-wicket victory as they chased down a modest target of 121. But Huxley's efforts were not enough to see him named in the county squad for their opening MCC Trophy match with Staffordshire on Sunday which will be played at the Oswestry star's home pitch at Morda Road.

Top half – but not top – is Pool aim

WELSHPOOL ARE targeting

a top six finish in the top flight of the FBC Manby Bowdler League as they head into the new campaign

full of confidence.

The club will again field three sides, all of whom start the 2011 campaign in the same league as they finished in last season aiming to build on a year of consolidation.

And first team opener and club secretary Joe Birch, whose dad Ernie will skipper the firsts, said the club was raring to go.

"I think the firsts would like a top six finish this season," said Birch junior.

And you want to see your local side featured in our sports section every week then send us in a scorecard, report, team news or pictures, and we will print them.

E-mail Sports Editor Alex James at a.m.e.s@shropshirestar.co.uk or drop details off at our Oswestry office at 14 Salop Road by 12 noon on a Tuesday for inclusion in that week's paper.

We have sorted that out and we now have two so that is a good start.

"I think we are definitely good enough to finish in the top half. We have no real desire to get promoted because we don't have the squad depth but a top six finish is definitely within reach."

Welshpool finished second bottom last year but suffered more abandoned

games than anyone else in the league.

Meanwhile, Birch is hopeful the seconds can mount a promotion push from division five and that the club's third team can push on in division six.

He added: "We would like our second team to move up the leagues a bit just so that they aren't such a big gap between the firsts and seconds."

"At the moment any youngsters we might want to bring through from the seconds have a bit of a gulf to make up so if the seconds could go up it would help the club as a whole."

"We have gone for a good blend of youth and experience in the seconds and thirds which will hopefully be the right mix."

"We've had quite a very good youth system in place for the last few years so hopefully they can press for first team places."

Welshpool finished second bottom last year but suffered more abandoned



Ready for off – Joe Birch

The first team is pretty much the same as last year and we have the basis of a good starting XI."

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games than anyone else in the league.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY

Ils visit Carverhall in division two

four looking to improve on a disappointing 2010 season

when they finished a place above the drop zone.

MONTGOMERY IIS

will also be eyeing improvement on a lower mid-table position

when they host Harcourt.

Division five will be a battle for survival for **GUILDFIELD** and **FRANKTON IIS** – both of whom tasted promotion last season. The Welsh side travel to Bridgnorth IIIs while Frankton are away at Ludlow & South Shropshire IIIs on day one.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY

Ils begin their promotion

push in division seven with a home match with Calverhall IIIs while Whittington IIIs will

be looking to bounce back into the second tier after suffering relegation in 2010 and they will fancy their chances of a winning start to their division three title last year when they begin life in a higher league at home to Wellington IIIs.

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ELLESMERE IIS

will start as one of the favourites after suffering relegation last year

and make the journey south to Church Stretton for their curtain-raiser while **FRANKTON IIS**

will hope to retain the winning momentum that took them to the division three title last year when they begin life in a higher league at home to Wellington IIIs.

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Montgomery IIs

will also be eyeing improvement on a lower mid-table position

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Division five will be a battle for survival for **GUILDFIELD** and **FRANKTON IIS** – both of whom tasted promotion last season. The Welsh side travel to Bridgnorth IIIs while Frankton are away at Ludlow & South Shropshire IIIs on day one.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY

Ils begin their promotion

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How Saints find themselves on the brink after dramatic weekend

The New Saints 2 Neath 3

Saints slipped to their first home defeat of the season at Park Hall after three late goals in the space of just nine minutes rocked the defending champions on Good Friday.

And defeat threw a lifeline to Bangor City who cashed in with a 2-1 win at Port Talbot the next day.

A high tempo affair saw Craig Jones drill an early effort wide for TNS, but Neath, through the trickery of former Swansea City star Lee Trundle, were proving a handful.

And they should have gone ahead when home defender Phil Baker tripped Craig Hughes just inside the box, but Trundle was the penalty saved by keeper Paul Harrison diving low to his left.

Harrison then made a smart stop from Hughes's low angled strike, but the Oswestry-based Saints got their noses in front just before half time when Danny Holmes' through ball sparked a tangle in the visiting

defence and Matty Williams finished in exquisite fashion from the edge of the box.

The hosts threatened again shortly after the break with Craig Jones having an effort parried by keeper Lee Idzi while Chris Sharp spurned three promising opportunities.

But, disrupted by the loss of the injured Baker, they were stunned as Chris Jones' cross from the left was glanced in off the head of Paul Fowler on 76 minutes.

And moments later defender Matthew Rees nodded in after Fowler had headed across goal.

Trundle, with a superb crossfield pass, then found Hughes who fired an angled third from the left hand side with five minutes left to seal a stunning victory for the visitors.

There was still time for Chris Seageant to net a consolation when his 20-yard free kick beat Idzi in the dying moments but it was too little too late.



Matty Williams fires the opening goal of the game for The New Saints in their 3-2 defeat by Neath.

Picture: ANDREW LINCOLN

The New Saints 3 Llanelli 1

The New Saints are braced for a tense Welsh Premier title decider on the last day of the season after the race for the championship took another twist.

While the league leaders did the necessary in defeating Llanelli in the Park Hall sunshine, title rivals Bangor City showed their resilience by winning 2-1 at Neath to stay one point behind.

Saints boss Mike Davies was pleased with the performance after watching his side comfortably despatch Llanelli in their last home outing.

"Every game has been so difficult this season, but we've shown great character to be where we are and we now need one big effort on Saturday."

"It was a good win against Llanelli who are the form side in the league and I thought our second half performance was excellent."

"The strength of our squad has shown its

worth, and everyone's now looking forward to the challenge on Saturday."

The defending champions were well worth the points against Llanelli, taking a 13th minute lead when Craig Jones crossed the ball for Sharp to convert.

Rhys Griffiths headed the visitors level eight minutes later from Jason Bowen's cross but two quickfire goals in the second half meant TNS were not to be denied as they carved a string of good chances.

Former Bangor striker Sharp restored the lead with his second goal, a stunning 20-yarder that flew into the top right hand corner on 53 minutes.

Then, five minutes later, Matty Williams increased the margin from the penalty spot after Stuart Jones had handled Scott Ruscoe's cross.

After that, the Saints were always in control, with Sharp having chances to complete his hat-trick while Aeron Edwards and Alex Darlington also went close.

Lions roar to victory

A STUNNING second half display from Oswestry Town Lions moved them to the top of the Consolation Cup Group A with a 4-1 win over Ludlow Town Colts.

Home side Lions trailed 1-0 at the break after Craig Simkiss put the visitors ahead, but the Oswestry side roared back in the second period to take the three points and keep alive their hopes of silverware.

Man of the match Gary Windsor netted a brace while Graeme Kirkham and Ben Hughes were also on target to put Lions well in the fight to top Group A.

Reserves miss out on final

ELLESMORE RANGERS Reserves missed out on a place in the Commander Ethelston Cup final after going down 3-1 to Wellington Amateurs Reserves on Good Friday at Whitchurch.

Sam Thomas scored the goal for Ellesmere, while Anthony Martin, Steve Meakin and Andy Jones were on target for Wellington, who now face Hodnet in the final.

Williams hits treble

Oswestry Boys Club under 8s Tigers finished their season in style with a 4-1 away win over SAHA Patriots in their final game of the campaign thanks to a Thomas Williams hat-trick.

Jack Hughes was also on target for Tigers while Aaron Spelman was named man of the match.

Tigers, playing up the hill in the first half, took an early lead and had chances to extend the advantage but the Patriots equalised to leave the scores level at the break.

Kicking down the slope in the second half more Tigers chances went begging until they finally got their deserved second goal.

And that opened the floodgates as two more gave the Oswestry side a 4-1 win after a fantastic team performance.

Positive performance secures doomed Pool a pleasing draw



Eye on the ball - Ellesmere striker Danny Barton battles with a Tipton opponent

Rangers bid to finish on high

ELLESMORE RANGERS host Westfields tonight and Boldmere St Michaels on Saturday as they bid to close their Midland Alliance season with a double victory.

But manager Matt Burton will be hoping for improved defensive performances after seeing his side ship five goals in two games over the Easter Bank Holiday.

On Easter Saturday a Gary Meredith hat trick helped them to a 4-2 win at Kirby Muxloe with an own goal also aiding the visitors' cause.

While on Monday, Rangers were beaten 3-2 at Beech Grove by league leaders Tipton Town.

Ellesmere were three down shortly after the break but despite late goals from Darren Beech and Danny Barton, they couldn't find an equaliser.

The results mean Rangers are all but secured of a 13th place finish in their first season at this level regardless of the outcome of their remaining two matches.



Ellesmere's Kev Renshaw makes up ground. Pictures: ALEX TAYLOR

BASEMENT SIDE Welshpool could at last point to some positive news on the pitch as they shared a 29-29 draw with fellow strugglers Bangor at Maesydre.

It has been a bleak spell for the Mid Wales men who have suffered a string of hefty losses and point deductions for failing to fulfil fixtures.

But they could at least take heart from playing their part in an entertaining affair, albeit against another side who are heading for relegation from the Welsh League division two (north).

In fact, Welshpool had victory – and a 'double' over their visitors in their sights – only to be denied by a last-gasp converted try.

The hosts ran in five tries through flanker Sean Jones, hooker Barry Williams, centre Dylan Walton, fullback Daly Jones and scrum half John Rhys-Jones. Jones also kicked two conversions.

Having trailed 19-17 at half time and 22-22 after the break, Pool looked to have the points in their grasp as they hit back to lead 29-22 only to be foiled at the death.

"It was a bit tough at the end, but we won up there with the last kick of the game for our only win of the season so it has evened itself out," said chairman Gary Williams.

The powerful scrum half continued his rich vein of form with all his side's points, including two tries, the second of which was from deep to win the game four minutes from time. He also landed four penalties and a conversion.

While victory underlined COBRA's growing credentials it also means that leaders Bala are now clear favourites to land the title.

"It was a very good win as we were not at our strongest and Dolgellau don't lose many at home, but Alwyn has been in superb form," said coach James Watkins.

Trailing to a penalty, COBRA hit back to lead 10-3 with Williams crossing following a scrum, then adding the conversion to an earlier penalty.

But, with centre Gareth Evans harshly sin-binned, Dolgellau reduced the arrears with an unconverted try before penalties either side of half time from Williams made it 16-8 to the visitors.

The home side then crossed for a second

unconverted try to close the gap, before the two sides shared further penalties.

Pressure then paid off as Dolgellau grabbed a third touchdown, this time converted, to lead 20-19 but COBRA were not to be denied.

Four minutes from time, Williams used his strength to break through a couple of tackles following a lineout inside his own half and raced over in the corner for a fine try.

COBRA have no league game this weekend as they host Shotton in the annual Nick Whiffen Memorial Cup.

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

unconverted try to close the gap, before the two sides shared further penalties.

"We conceded a couple of late tries which made it look like a hammering, but it was closer than that," said Williams.

Welshpool, who are facing a race against time to fit in their remaining four fixtures, have the prospect of being without a game this week as all their possible rivals are already fixed up.

But Pool's second string have a chance of lifting some silverware on Sunday when they take on Aberystwyth University in the final of the Mid Wales Shield at Llanidloes (3.00pm).

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Cricket

Full preview of
the new season
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Bowls

All the Oswestry
League action
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Boss Herbert pledges future to Welshpool

CHRIS HERBERT has agreed to continue as Technogroup Welshpool manager next season – and plans to expand his coaching team as he looks to make a swift return to the Cymru Alliance.

The Pool chief had been undecided about his future but, following talks with the club, will be staying put along with his assistant Benji Evans.

And, with the Maesydre men relegated to the Spar Mid Wales League last season, he faces a rebuilding exercise as he looks for his charges to make their mark.

"Last season was tough but I see a bright future for the club," he said.

"I've been assured that things will be run better behind the scenes next season. I was a bit concerned about what budget we're going to have, but my decision to stay is more to do with how things are run at the club."

"We could have someone come in with a bit of money, and I know the club are looking at a new chairman so I'm feeling positive."

"I've had a few offers from other clubs, but I like it at Welshpool and believe it is a great opportunity for me."

"And I'm confident that we can bounce back next season."

Committed

"I think there will be changes on the playing front as I only want players who are going to be fully committed to the club."

"I will be bringing in more local players, and I hope to bring in a couple more coaches, including a goal-keeping coach, and someone with a coaching A licence."

And the news has been welcomed by outgoing club secretary Liam Pritchard.

"We're thrilled Herbie and Benji have chosen to remain at Maesydre," said Pritchard.

"They both wanted to stay above all else and finish the job that they have started here – and we are glad to have them."

"Chris has been extremely successful during his short time at the club and he sees his work as barely started."

"He stabilised us on the pitch after a really rough time and has done a lot of work behind the scenes."

"We wanted him to stay stable for the club and give us a firm base to build upon."

• Point - see page 84

St Martins eye victory

ST MARTINS will be aiming to get their promotion push back on track with a home win over Mahon in West Midland League division two on Saturday.

The Saints recent run of good form came to an abrupt end with a 4-2 defeat to fellow title rivals Leominster on Saturday despite goals from Tim Nunnerley and Ian Heathcock.

But Saints had a chance to put that result right last night when they visited AFC Smethwick.



New face – Jonathan Miles who has joined Oswestry for the 2011 Birmingham League

PICTURE: Gerry Sexton

OSWESTRY CRICKET Club have pulled off a transfer coup ahead of the new Birmingham League season by signing promising left arm seamer **Jonathan Miles**.

The 25-year-old, who played every match for Unicorns in the Clydesdale Bank 40 competition last year, joins the club ahead of their season-opener at Wednesday on May 7.

And Miles, who took the wickets of former England stars Marcus Trescothick and Vikram Solanki last year, is expected to spearhead the Oswestry attack.

Oswestry chairman Mike Robinson said he was delighted the move had finally gone through.

He said: "We have managed to get him registered now and he will be available all year to us starting with next weekend's opener."

"He is an excellent bowler and is just what we have been looking for."

"He has excellent pedigree and to get

by Alex James

Trescothick out and to get him out cheaply shows how talented a bowler he is."

"We are pleased he has joined us and everybody at the club is now looking ahead to the new season."

Miles, who has secured a post teaching at Oswestry School, took 12 wickets for Unicorns last year at an average of 40.66 and boasted best figures of 3-49.

Return

The Sutton Coldfield-born ace has also turned out for Durham and Surrey IIs during his early career.

The only other new face in the Oswestry squad is returning South African batsman Warrick Fynn.

The 26-year-old played for the Morda Road men from 2007-08, helping the club to the Marston's Shropshire Premier League title in 2007 before scoring 800 runs in a relegation campaign

in their first ever season in the Birmingham League.

He replaces Mudassir Pasha in the overseas role.

Robinson added: "Warrick is now settled and living just outside Oswestry so it's ideal for all parties and we are delighted to welcome him back."

"He is an excellent player and will serve us well."

For a full preview of Oswestry's Birmingham League season see next week's Chronicle.

Meanwhile the club host Shropshire's opening MCCA Trophy match on Sunday when Staffordshire are the visitors. Oswestry are the current holders of the competition and the 50-over match starts at 11am at Morda Road with free admission.

"Where else can you get a full day's entertainment for nothing," added Robinson.

• FBC Manby Bowdler season preview - page 85.

Iffton may have to pull out of league

IFFTON BOWLING Club may have to pull out of the Whitchurch League unless they can find more players.

The club, who field a single team in the second division have failed to raise a full side in their last two matches and are urgently looking for extra bodies to join the team.

The club, who have been playing in the Tuesday night league for more than 40 years, today made a desperate plea for anyone interested to get in touch.

"There is a real danger that if we don't a couple more players we will have to pull out," said team member Steve Robinson.

"We went away two players short last week and it is getting to a stage where we have to look at it."

"People are going to get fed up of putting petrol in their car if we aren't getting a full team and are losing matches."

"We don't want to drop out of the league but we might not have much choice."

The club have already pulled out of the Alan Mayhew Trophy.

Anyone interested in joining Iffton to play in the Whitchurch League, where games start at 7pm, can contact captain Terry Williams on (07803) 607620.

• For more bowls see page 84.

All change at Morda

MORDA UNITED manager Norman Evans will step down from first team duties at the end of the current season.

Evans' side host Impact United in their final fixture on Saturday still in danger of relegation from the County Premier League.

And Evans said he felt the time was right for a change, though he hinted he could remain at the club in some capacity.

He said: "I'll do whatever is best for the club."

"If that means help out with some coaching then I will do that. I don't mind staying on in some form."

Anybody interested in becoming Morda's new manager can contact club secretary Rob Drury on (01891) 652124.

Oswestry sign pace ace Miles for season

SAINTS READY FOR TITLE SHOWDOWN

MANAGER MIKE Davies is backing The New Saints to handle the heat as the Welsh Premier's top two do battle in Saturday's title showdown at Bangor City (3.30).

Nine months of fluctuating action will all come down to the very last day at Farrar Road, with the defending champions needing just to draw to retain their crown.

However, with Bangor having home advantage the destiny of the championship is anyone's guess in a thrilling finale.

"Both Bangor and us have set the standards this season and it is fitting that we should be playing each other in the last game with the title at stake," said Davies.

"It's a great finish for the league, and it's now come down to a cup final situation."

"We both started the season with big games in Europe, and we're now finishing the season with another big game."

"It's going to be tough, Bangor will have a big crowd behind them, the pitch will suit their style of play, but we'll be up for the challenge."

"We have shown in the past that the big games bring the best out of the team, these are the type of games you want to be involved in."

"The mood's been good, everyone's keeping positive and we'll keep working hard as we have done all year."

Davies must take a watching brief from the stands as

by John Bridgwater

Welsh Premier League

The top six

The New Saints...31 20 3 87 33 68

Bangor City.....31 21 6 71 44 67

Neath FC.....31 18 6 61 40 57

Bala AFC.....31 15 6 52 39 53

Prestatyn Town....31 10 12 53 45 59

Port Talbot Town....31 7 12 34 46 33

be fit after suffering with cramp.

City boss Neville Powell is relishing the showdown which could attract a record crowd for a Welsh Premier clash.

"It's now a winner-takes-all final match and it's an opportunity for the lads and the supporters deserve after a magnificent campaign," he said.

After Saturday's title decider, the dust would have hardly settled when the Saints take on Llanelli in the Lloemoors Cup final at Aberystwyth on Bank Holiday Monday (2.30pm).

TNS supporters are being offered free coach travel to Bangor on Saturday.

Departures are scheduled for either 10am or 12 noon.

he has a touchline ban after being sent off in a recent home game.

And on the pitch the Saints have selection worries, with Phil Baker likely to be missing from the heart of defence with heel and hamstring problems.

Craig Jones (hamstring) and Matty Williams (groin) are both having treatment after being forced off through injury in Easter Monday's 3-1 win over Llanelli. However, defender Connall Rawlinson should

after the sides had drawn 1-1. Darren Martin netted a late spot kick to take the tie into extra time but there were no further goals sending it to a shoot out where Llanrhedr's Jamie Evans missed the decisive spot kick.

Berriew and Llaidloes remain in the competition but face each other in the last eight.

Crowning moment in cup



Jig of delight – The Crown's Lee Jones celebrates with his team-mates as the Montgomery side take a 1-0 lead in the Roger Breeze Cup Final against Angel Welshpool. The league champions would go on to win the match 3-0. For a full report and more picture see page 86.

Picture: PETER FLEMmICH

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